

صبرنا من الابل

HOME NEWS

terrorists blow up restaurant and shoot dead owners in Ulster sectarian outrage

By Christopher Walker

Two men were killed and two people narrowly escaped death when masked "terrorists" attacked one of the best known restaurants in the town of Lurgan, north of Belfast, on Monday night and reduced it to a ruin.

The attack took place soon after midnight when three gunmen burst into the Golden Star, a big restaurant near Lurgan town, and opened fire on the staff preparing for the night. The restaurant was hit by a large incendiary bomb.

Ten of the two owners, Mr. and Mrs. O'Reilly and his brother-in-law, Mr. Norman O'Reilly, were ordered out of the building at gunpoint and shot dead from an upstairs window.

The police said that the restaurant was hit by a large incendiary bomb which caused the building to catch fire and the staff were ordered to leave the premises.

One of the explosions in the restaurant loosened the fire-bolt and the staff were ordered to leave the premises.

Threats by the previously used loyalist coalition to demonstrate against the continuation of direct rule from Westminster collapsed yesterday as fewer than half the coalition's 40 members arrived to attend a meeting in a shabby, unheated hall near Stormont.

Originally planned as a defiant attempt to continue the

Conventions against the wishes of the Government and all the other parties, the gathering ended by providing unmistakable evidence of the splits and confusion inside the coalition about tactics.

At Stormont, extra policemen were ready to prevent an expected attempt to force entry into the locked Convention chamber, but any such plans were dropped: in fact loyalist leaders decided that such a move had even been contemplated.

Delayed at the turnout, the leadership issued a statement explaining that the meeting was only a committee which would be making recommendations on future action.

The plan to hold the meeting

had been criticised by the more moderate members of the Official Unionist Party, many of whom are upset by the efforts of hard-line loyalists to mount extra-parliamentary protests against direct rule.

Earlier, Mr. Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, criticised Mr. Ernest Baird, deputy leader of the UUUC who, on Monday, questioned the "honesty, integrity and ability" of the Army after the mortar attack on Aldegreave airport and other recent incidents.

In an interview on the province's BBC channel Mr. Rees said: "To the rest of the United Kingdom there will be very great resentment at this man talking in the way he does."

Tighter security sought

By Our Political Staff

Condemnation of almost every important aspect of the Government's policy on Northern Ireland came yesterday from Mr. Airey Neave, the Conservative spokesman on the province.

Mr. Neave is a less enthusiastic partner in the two-party policy on Northern Ireland than some of his frontbench colleagues. He spoke mildly yesterday in the House of Commons, but his strictures indicated unhappiness about recent developments.

The refusal to have any local representative body in the north, he said, was "a more difficult" task.

"There will be rising demands for more seats at Westminster," he said.

The Government also ought to explain what it meant by "positive" instead of "negative" direct rule.

"We take the view that the Government should concentrate all their energies on improving their security policy," he added. "For the time, everything should take second place to the defence of terrorism. Without far more resolute military action to restore order, the prospects for future political settlement are very remote."

New methods were needed to punish severely membership of illegal organisations, "It is

Conservatives hail concession on musical education

Choir schools exempted from Bill

By Tim Devlin
Education Correspondent

Choir schools in England and Wales will be allowed to continue to select pupils on their singing ability and will be exempted from the Education Bill, which bans selection and is now going through Parliament.

Mr. Fowler, Minister of State for Education and Science, announced that yesterday to the standing committee. Later he confirmed to me that local authorities will be able to take up places at independent choir schools without first getting permission from the Secretary of State.

He said that such selection must be based on singing ability and must not be related to the children's academic abilities. There are 19 preparatory independent choir schools and 17 secondary choir schools, of which two are state schools.

Mr. Norman St John-Stevens, opposition spokesman on education and science, hailed the announcement as the first concession the Government had made on the Bill in committee. Last month he said that the future of many choir schools was threatened by the Bill. He proposed a charter for the schools to put them in the same category as schools for children with music and dancing abilities, which were already exempt.

Mr. David Jewell, headmaster of Bristol Cathedral School, said: "This announcement provides a beam of hope. Local authorities who have been uncertain about taking up places at choir schools will now know that they can do so with the Government's blessing."

The announcement will be greeted with relief by many others of the 36 choir schools in England and Wales. Two cathedral choir schools, at Chester and Canterbury, have



Freedom 'a signal for Scottish violence'

From David Leigh
Edinburgh

Armed resistance and political violence would probably characterize independence in Scotland, Professor John Erickson, head of the defence studies unit and Professor of Politics at Edinburgh University, said last night.

The professor, a defence analyst and adviser to the Royal Navy on methods of protecting oil rigs, crystallized anxieties which several Scottish politicians also express privately about the possibilities of violence and instability inherent in the direction Scottish politics is taking.

The Scottish National Party should concern itself largely with internal security, he said, adding: "The problem would not be to patrol the sea lanes of the North Sea but to keep order in Princes Street or Sauchiehall Street."

The professor, who was delivering a lecture at Edinburgh University on the likely future of Scotland, said that if independence became a likely prospect for Scotland, "disorganized but lethal military organizations would surface and probably survive after independence."

"For example," he said, "an independent government of extreme left persuasion could call forth the reaction of the friends of the Scottish individual." Imagine, he said, "infringements of any independence agreements might also lead to an alliance between saboteur and military action groups."

Hospital consultant 'unfairly dismissed'

Mrs. Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, has been criticized by an industrial tribunal for not listening to a doctor's appeal.

The tribunal ruled that Dr. Maria Guirguis, aged 48, Egyptian-born, was unfairly dismissed from a hospital consultant's job. In a written decision published yesterday, the Tribunal chairman at Birmingham, Mr. Nathan Myers, said the Secretary of State's refusal to

hear the appeal was astonishing.

Dr. Guirguis, he said, had been told he had no right of appeal under regulations, but the right had been given by the terms of his employment.

Mr. Myers said the West Midlands Health Authority, which employed Dr. Guirguis as a radiologist at West Bromwich, should read the Code of Industrial Practice.

Dr. Guirguis, of Dagger Lane, West Bromwich, was employed

Police were looking last night for a man who took this 2,000-year-old brass statuette of the god Hermes, valued at £10,000, from the Bruce McAlpine Gallery in Mayfair, London, yesterday. The thief had an American accent and was middle-aged.

Eddie Gallagher calls jail governor 'sadistic pig'

Eddie Gallagher, the former IRA man accused of killing Dr. Tiede Herrema, Dutch industrialist, yesterday in the Special Criminal Court in Dublin called a prison or a "sadistic little pig."

Gallagher, asked if he had testimony for Mr. Michael J. O'Connell, governor of Limerick, said: "Why was it to have my wife in here while she was that our son was born with arms broken?"

O'Connell was giving testimony in prove that Rose Dugdale, who lived in the house where Gallagher was in jail at the time of the kidnapping, Dugdale's release was ded for the safe return Herrema the court was

said to Mr. McCrann: "Why did you allow the police to beat up five women prisoners and slash the face of Rose Dugdale?"

Gallagher then shouted "sadistic little pig" at the governor.

Mr. William Reilly, governor of Portlaoine prison, gave evidence in prove that James Hyland and Kevin Mallon, two men whose release was also demanded, were in the jail while Dr. Herrema was held captive.

Mr. Gallagher asked Mr. Reilly why prisoners were punished without first being allowed to see the regulations, or being permitted education and recreation facilities.

Mr. Gallagher was again told the points were not relevant. He replied: "You are like Pontius Pilate and wash your hands of it."

The trial continues today.

Suspension of doctor for misconduct

Christopher Calman, aged 38, of Southwark, south London, was suspended from medical register for three years yesterday for serious criminal misconduct after being found guilty of sexual intercourse with a girl patient, 18.

A disciplinary committee of the General Medical Council said that Miss Emma Claire Telegge, who had been receiving psychiatric treatment, in the treated by Dr. Calman in July, 1974, when she living with her mother and stepfather, Mr. Adrian Telegge.

When she moved into a flat another girl, he continued to have sex with her. In March last year she telephoned him complaining that her sleeping pills were not working. Dr. Calman visited her, taking some pills, and she came to his place.

On following month Miss Telegge was admitted to hospital where she was treated for the abuse and depression. In the following month, she led on him to give her, openly, supplies of the drug.

After the young doctor confessed to the girl's stepfather, he apologized.

He girl's mother, Mrs. Olive Telegge, told the committee after the incidents she visited the doctor at his surgery, attacked him hard, as hard as she could, she said. "When it doctor who is supposed to be after your child, you physically sick because you see you can trust these people."

Calman said he was a part in general practice, but had no notice to leave.

In brief

Plea on supply of papers held over

Wholesale newspaper distributors operating on the fringe of London asked successfully in the High Court yesterday for their application for an injunction against newspaper publishers to be set aside until next Tuesday.

The injunction would seek to make the publishers name people who had been responsible for disrupting newspaper supplies.

TV ban over advertising

The BBC has cancelled its television coverage of the Daily Mail Race of Champions at Brands Hatch on Sunday in which one of the cars is due to carry advertising for Durex contraceptives.

The corporation said yesterday that the decision was made "because of the generally unacceptable volume of advertising."

Minister appointed

Miss Margaret Jackson, Labour MP for Lincoln and a Government assistant whip, has been appointed an Under-Secretary of State for Education and Science, succeeding Miss Joan Lester, who resigned over the projected public expenditure cuts.

Policemen killed

Police Constables J. D. Hunt, aged 31, and D. Tunnicliffe, aged 27, Staffordshire police, were killed yesterday when they were involved in a collision with a car on the edge of Caosock Chase.

Waterways restriction

The British Waterways Board announced yesterday that because of the long, dry spell of weather locks on waterways in England and Wales would be closed at night until further notice.

Boxer divorced

Mark Rowe, aged 28, the former British middleweight boxing champion, was divorced by his wife, Pamela, in the London Divorce Court yesterday on the ground of his unreasonable conduct.

Royal visit delayed

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother is postponing her visit to Margate's Royal school for Deaf Children from next Friday to April 2 because of her influenza attack.

Centenary stamps

Four new postage stamps to mark the centenary of Alexander Graham Bell's first telephone call go on sale today. They are priced 4p, 10p, 11p and 13p.

Not 'addicted flying'

Michael Deryves, aged 38, an air pilot said to be addicted to flying like an alcoholic, flew a light aircraft over Waterloo Bridge, London, last night after one of his would lose his licence, he was told yesterday.

Deryves, a mechanic, of Aerial Way, Chislehurst, had he could not afford the an hour cost of flying but he did not give it up. He was a total of 1,000 on nine months under the 1974 Air Traffic Order.

Building work down

Figures from the Department of the Environment yesterday show that the value of all building work during the fourth quarter of 1975 was £2,958m. At annual prices, and seasonally adjusted, the total was down 2.2 per cent on the third quarter.

A reminder that the Air France Concorde does not have a monopoly to Rio.

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HOME NEWS

Journalists' union an ally in fight to preserve freedom of the press, editor tells commission

By a Staff Reporter

The editors of two national newspapers and Lord Goodman, chairman of the Newspaper Publishers Association, yesterday repeated their absolute opposition to a closed shop for journalists and their apprehensions about the proposed press charter before the Royal Commission on the Press.

But a third editor, Mr Charles Wintour, of the *Evening Standard*, told the commission that he deplored the attitude of editors who saw threats to the freedom of the press where none existed. He believed a reasonable press charter could be produced.

A post-office closed shop had operated at his newspaper for six years. Occasionally he was chafed at the restrictions, particularly on recruitment, but he could not honestly say that press freedom had been imperilled.

Mr Wintour criticized editors who saw the tremendous mistake of seeing the National Union of Journalists as the enemy. It was a potentially ally in the fight to preserve press freedom. The union had a first-class record in fighting censorship.

Earlier, Lord Goodman had taken a much gloomier view of the prospects for the freedom of the press in the wake of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Bill. He repeated that the Bill had created "an utterly intolerable situation". He feared that the present proposals could reduce a free press first to total anarchy and finally to total subordination.

No urged the royal commis-

sion to recommend that the right to write should not be abridged in any way for industrial reasons. Mr Wintour, on the other hand, told the commission that he saw nothing in the proposed law that threatened the right to write or the more practical right to publish.

Lord Goodman said that he did not agree with Mr William Rees-Mogg, editor of *The Times*, that editors should take no part in negotiations for a press charter as provided for in the Bill. Agreement would not be easy but he at least would try hard.

Questioned about NUJ action in Barnsley, Lord Goodman said it showed how a small and relatively weak organization, given immense new powers, sought to flex its muscles.

Mr M. H. Fisher, editor of the *Financial Times*, told Professor O. R. McGreggor, chairman of the commission, that the proposed charter would bring more danger than safety.

The best thing to hope for was that no such charter should be written, particularly not one drafted by a minister.

He added that any charter that contained provisions about the content of newspapers would lead to a limitation of their freedom. The power given to Mr Foot, Secretary of State for Employment, to draft his own version if the two sides of the industry failed to agree was incompatible with a free press. "I would not entrust the drafting of such rules to the Archangel Gabriel," he said.

He believed that the power to draft a press charter under the terms of the Bill would give the Government power to

direct news in addition to the considerable power of news management it already possessed.

Mr Fisher emphasized that his opposition to a closed shop for journalists did not arise from hostility to unions in general or to the NUJ in particular. He would be prepared to edit the *Financial Times* if all its journalists were NUJ members, provided that membership was not a condition of entry and that a journalist who left the union did not lose his job.

He understood the NUJ's desire to establish the strongest possible bargaining position, but he did not believe a closed shop was necessary or desirable. He added: "I am not in favour of leaving loaded pistols lying around even if everyone promises never to fire a shot."

Mr Donald Treflford, editor of *The Observer*, said he would enter negotiations for a press charter with considerable pessimism. He would have preferred the amendments to the Bill proposed by Lord Goodman, which were clear and unambiguous, to any press charter, which would be unclear and very ambiguous, as a defence of the freedom of the press.

To take part in negotiations for a charter might imply acceptance of the closed shop principle, so the unwillingness of some editors was understandable. He believed elements within the NUJ were pressing to extend their influence over newspapers, which was, of course, an entirely legitimate aspiration.

Bernard Levin, page 14

NUJ support for Barnsley action opposed

By Christopher Thomas

Labour Staff

The executive committee of the National Union of Journalists was asked yesterday to reconsider its support for action taken against non-NUJ journalists in Barnsley, South Yorkshire. It has faced criticism both inside and outside the profession.

The general purposes committee of the union approved a motion to "take note" of the request by Mr Michael Foot, Secretary of State for Employment, for the union to reconsider its policy. The committee invited the executive to think again, although it made no specific recommendation.

It also asked Mr Kenneth

County Council headquarters in Barnsley.

Mr Eric Barr, secretary of the Barnsley branch of the NUJ, said yesterday: "We are very pleased that Nalga has given its support to us."

Mr Robert Farmer, general secretary of the Institute of Journalists, said in an open letter to Mr Foot: "I am now reliably informed that in some areas local NUJ office holders are telling public relations practitioners that unless they join the union the material that they submit on behalf of their employers or clients will not be published."

This must surely be an indis-

putable example of that denial of access to the press for outside contributors and the public that you said in the House would be a scandal.

Mr Wilfred Collinson, press officer of Barnsley council, is a member of Nalga. So are the press and public relations officers at South Yorkshire

County Council headquarters in Barnsley. Mr Eric Barr, secretary of the Barnsley branch of the NUJ, said yesterday: "We are very pleased that Nalga has given its support to us."

Lectors, page 15



Garden-sharing plan: Mrs Maureen Harris (left) and a group of pensioners in a row of almshouses in Wandsworth Road, London, are among the first people to benefit from a "crops and shares" scheme launched yesterday by the Friends of the Earth. The purpose of the scheme is to bring together people who want to grow their own food but have no access to

suitable land and others, who find it difficult to cultivate their gardens. Mrs Harris, a widow, who moved recently from a house in the country with a big garden to one in Wandsworth with only a tiny back yard, has been given the use of the almshouse gardens to grow vegetables in return for a promise to keep the small front gardens in flower. Yesterday she had some help from the Friends

(above right). The pensioners are pleased by the agreement because their caretaker-gardener has retired and the gardens were falling into neglect. The Friends of the Earth say that the desire to grow more food is evident. The allotment waiting list lengthened from about 27,000 in 1973 to about 57,000 in 1974. Garden-sharing schemes have been started by 20 Friends' groups.

Printing chief sees a 'crunch' still ahead

By Our Labour Staff

Mr Joe Wade, general secretary of the National Graphical Association, the craft printing union, said yesterday that "the real crunch" had yet to come in the newspaper industry.

He told a conference in London held by The Media Society, that if there was a lesson to be learnt from what had happened in Fleet Street it was the need for early consultation with unions and employees on new technology.

"The real crunch has yet to come, because some newspapers have admitted they are in no position to find the cash for adequate pensions and voluntary redundancy pay on the scale that will be necessary, or, indeed, to finance the new techniques. That is why some of them are playing a waiting game."

He added: "It is to be expected that the Royal Commission on the Press, which will recommend, or the Government will agree, that there should be a massive injection of cash into the newspaper industry, even on a loan basis,

without some guarantee that the industry is going to succeed in putting its house in order."

It was amazing, he said, that some Fleet Street newspapers wanted to make the leap from Caxton to computers to one go, without any experience of the new technology. "I am convinced it is not about the new technology itself that there are going to be wide differences of opinion, but about the pace of its introduction."

"There is still time for some Fleet Street newspapers to think about their plans. New technology must be introduced on the basis of existing demarcation lines."

He said earlier in his speech that he had yet to be convinced that "some of the cannibals of Fleet Street" were not going to use the new technology as "some kind of sophisticated weaponry to continue the time-honoured ritual of trying to blow each other out of existence, while Mr Rupert Murdoch sailed on merrily to another fortune on a sea of feminine pulchritude".

Average rate increase put at about 8%

By Our Local Government Correspondent

The latest estimates of rates for next year show that the average increase is likely to be about 8 to 9 per cent. That is the figure the Department of the Environment expects will emerge when returns from local authorities have been put through its computer.

Individual figures will vary a great deal on either side of the average, and water rates are not included in the estimate. If the estimates for non-metropolitan areas are considered, the effect of the water charges will be to put up the average total rates bill by another 6 to 7 per cent.

Other figures released yesterday by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy indicate that local authorities generally will not achieve the targets set by the

Government. It said last December that "provided authorities plan within the agreed limits for expenditure, the national average increase in rate poundages next year should be very substantially below that in 1975".

Mr Crosland, Secretary of State for the Environment, has refused to define "substantially below", but he is known to be well pleased with the latest estimates.

The preliminary figures show increases in percentage terms of 4.5 for the London boroughs, 6.5 for metropolitan districts, nil for non-metropolitan districts, 6.3 for metropolitan counties, 10.1 for non-metropolitan counties and 7.8 for the Greater London Council, including the Inner London Education Authority. Precept. Those figures do not include water charges.

Eight men and two women in court after raids

After raids coordinated by Scotland Yard's serious crimes squad in various parts of Britain, 10 people, including two women, appeared at Thames Magistrates' Court yesterday to answer various charges, including conspiracy.

Four men, one of them from Bournemouth, appeared separately charged with conspiracy to steal £10,000, and two of them additionally with conspiracy to steal a further £20,000 and £22,000. They were remanded in custody for a week.

The two women and two men from Leicester appeared with two London men on charges including attempting to export 400 £20 bank notes; possessing a revolver; and producing false documents in respect of uncustomed jewelry. Not all face the same charges.

The woman and three of the men were granted bail until March 30 and one man, the husband of one of the women, was remanded in custody until March 17.

AUEW poll hope for moderates

By Our Labour Staff

Moderate members of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, Britain's second largest union, are seeking to consolidate their position in elections for key posts which began yesterday.

The elections will decide whether Mr Robert Wright will be able to retain a national post within the union as assistant general secretary. He lost his executive seat to a moderate in October by an unexpectedly high margin in a postal ballot.

Mr Jimmy Reid is standing for the post of Scottish regional officer. Voting for 23 posts closes on March 23 and the results will not be known until four to six weeks later.

'Lobby of peers' opposed to easing sex laws

A strong lobby totally opposed to the liberalization of the law on sexual offences is being built up in the House of Lords, Lord Beaumont said yesterday.

His comments came after the publication yesterday of the National Council for Civil Liberties' report on sex law reform, which has been submitted to the Criminal Law Revision Committee. Among the society's proposals are the lowering of the age of consent from 16 to 14, equal treatment under the law for homosexuals and heterosexuals, and the abolition of the offences of huggery and incest.

Lord Beaumont, who was a member of the Sexual Law Reform Society's working party on sexual offences which recommended almost identical reforms in their report a couple of years ago, said: "There is a large number of very sincere very Christian peers who genuinely believe that they are fighting against the devil and have organized a strong reactionary lobby."

Miss Patricia Hewitt, general secretary of the NCCL, said they had received a lot of mixed comments on their proposals, ranging from strong support to fierce abuse.

Lord Longford said he felt the report was half-baked, and that anyone who brought forward those kinds of views must be confident.

Dr Rhodri Iwan Jones, Conservative MP for Brent, North, said he would press the Home Secretary in the Commons next week to resist the NCCL's proposal to lower the age of consent.

He added: "The real problems of our society are not the restrictions on the massive number of illegitimate births, abortions and the neglect of children which arise from looking at sex purely as a branch of the Olympics, as against a relationship which should only be gone into for the procreation of children through the family framework."

Leading article, page 15

London-Paris 'air bridge' in Anglo-French partnership

By Our Air Correspondent

British Airways and Air France are to enter into partnership on the London-Paris air route from April 1 so that during peak periods on weekdays there will be a flight between the capitals every 30 minutes.

The service has been labelled the "air bridge", and senior executives of the two airlines forecast in London yesterday that during its first year of operation it would carry 1,600,000 passengers. London-Paris is already the busiest international air route in the world.

The next stage will be to convert the service into a shuttle,

similar to that which British Airways has operated between London and Glasgow for 15 months, and which it intends to introduce between London and Edinburgh from April 1.

No advance reservations will be necessary, fares will be collected on board, and there will always be a reserve airliner to carry passengers who cannot find room on the main flight.

With 80 per cent of the seats on the air bridge being provided by the British Airways 320-seat Lockheed TriStar and the Air France 248-seat European A300 airbus, there will be little need for advance bookings, the airlines said.

Restrictions on Oxford ruling body rejected

From Our Correspondent

Oxford. An attempt to restrict a proposed enlargement of membership of Congregation, the governing body of Oxford University, to graduates of recognized universities failed yesterday. But it is expected that a postal vote on the matter will be demanded.

The Hebdomadal Council proposed that "academically staff, comprising administrative and library staff and those concerned with research, should be eligible. Dr Maurice Kew, Balliol, proposed an amendment that only university graduates should be eligible."

The council's proposal, said, would dilute the proportion of Congregation's membership which was directly concerned with the prime purpose of the university, teaching and learning, by more than a fifth.

Mr James Campbell, of Worcester College, said that the membership of Congregation was coming to be a matter for competition between unions. "Disputes with unions and between unions have recently occupied much of the university's attention," he said. "The question of membership of Congregation has been involved in these affairs, and the council gets its way will be increasingly so involved."

Sir Edgar Williams, Warden of Rhodes College, opposing the amendment, which was defeated by 31 votes to 24, said the council's proposal would make about 290 people eligible for Congregation, and increase its membership to 330, four under the Regent House of Cambridge.

Salmon return to the Trent

Salmon are returning to the Trent after being laid off for 50 years.

The Severn-Trent Authorities' independent advisory panel on water quality, which has been set up to monitor the water quality of the Trent, has reported that conditions at Bridge, Nottingham, are better than at any time since began 20 years ago. In the past year 14 salmon were between Nottingham and

Opposition to dearer food hysterical, NFU chief says

By Hugh Clayton

Agricultural Correspondent. Opposition to higher food prices in the EEC farm price review amounted to hysterical overreaction, Sir Henry Plumb, president of the National Farmers' Union, said yesterday.

He added that shoppers should think themselves lucky that prices would not rise even more.

He referred after a meeting of the union's council to statements from consumer groups reported in *The Times* yesterday. "One of the principal reasons why farm prices have had to be increased is to offset increased costs brought about by self-generated inflation in the United Kingdom," he said.

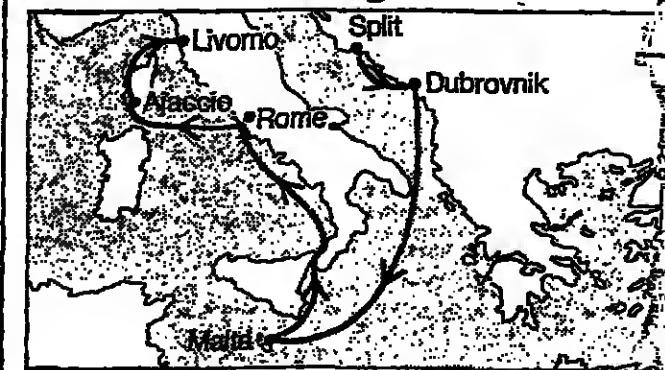
"Wage and salary earners, who constitute the 'consumer' of this country, cannot expect the price of food to be when until recently their incomes were increasing at an annual rate of 30 per cent more."

Professor Asher Wigdarsky, deputy director general of the union, asked: "Is it right the farmer should pay for his own falling pound? It is up to the government to decide whether to deal with agriculture on a basis of a real pound of phoney pound."

The council decided to put for devaluation of the "grit" pound, the figure which when EEC farm prices are expressed in sterling. Devaluation sought in the review by EEC Commission had risen successfully by Mr Peter

Minister of Agriculture.

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TTU8

RE NEWS

Councillor sent to jail
for £2,700 fraud

Kane, aged 29, a town councillor, was sentenced to six months for fraud by Charles Johnston, a city magistrate leader of the council group on Glasgow Council, was fined £2,700 by Glasgow Corporation on November 1972.

Prosecution said he had used money for loss of the attending council when in fact he was claiming his own.

He told Mr Kane that he was not a standard of which the jury have a missing in you, it was the only

Turner will
have his
own gallery
in London

By Philip Howard

J. M. W. Turner, the prince of landscape painters, is to come home to Somerset House after all. A meeting of the trustees of the British art and museum establishment in the Fine Rooms of Somerset House yesterday decided in principle that some rooms should house an exhibition of some of the 300 oils and nearly 20,000 watercolours and drawings that Turner left to the nation.



Lady Birk with Henry Moore, the sculptor (left) and Sir John Betjeman, the Poet Laureate, at Somerset House.

His condition that they be exhibited in rooms of their own to be called Turner's Gallery has been scandalously ignored by a grateful nation in the 125 years since his death.

Yesterday's meeting was organized by the Department of the Environment, which will staff and administer the Turner Gallery, and was presided over by Lady Birk, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State.

Somerset House has been the obvious home for such a gallery since the Government departments once known familiarly to Victorians as "the national beehive" moved out and the rooms were restored to their original splendour in 1971. Turner was admitted to the Royal Academy schools here at the age of 14.

The first exhibited at the Royal Academy in Somerset House two years later. Over the next half century until the academy moved out, he made his name in this old home of the academy, which recognized his genius and supported him against many of the arbiters of taste.

The general sense of the meeting was that the Fine Rooms on the first floor, designed by Sir William Chambers exactly 200 years ago as council rooms for the academy and the learned societies, are too fine to convert into formal galleries

devoted exclusively to paintings by Turner.

It would be architecturally philistine to blot out Chambers' classic moulded panels, windows and chimney pieces, not to mention Cipriani's paintings on the ceilings. The general opinion was that it would be better to furnish the rooms with a permanent exhibition of a few fine paintings from the period of the academy's residence there, fine period furniture, and sculpture, which used to be a particular ornament of these rooms.

Upstairs, the second floor of the Strand block, where the academy used to have its schools of painting, and "the Great Room", where its exhibitions were held, could be restored and converted into galleries for an exhibition of Turners that would be changed and lent periodically.

The Great Room could hold 50 oils, hung in less congestion than in Turner's time, when the walls looked like a crowded stamp album. The anteroom, school of painting, and other side rooms on the second floor would be converted to hold about 200 watercolours, with space to breathe.

Leading article, page 15

Butlins fined £1,940 for
46 hygiene offences

Butlins, the holiday camp company, was fined a total of £1,940 and ordered to pay £400 costs at Chichester Magistrates' Court, Sussex, yesterday for 46 food hygiene offences. The offences were said to relate to conditions at the company's Bognor Regis camp last summer. The company pleaded guilty.

Mr John Smyth, for Arun District Council, said that conditions at the camp were reminiscent of a Victorian workhouse. Crockery and cooking equipment had been found encrusted with stale food and trays of ham and plates of peaches were also encrusted.

Mr Smyth said a tin opener was covered with grease and so putrefied that it had a foul odour. Kitchen walls had pieces of cucumber and tea bags sticking to them, extractor filters and hoods were clogged with grease and there were cracked tiles and concrete, filthy ledges, floors and walls in food preparation rooms.

He said the 46 offences were specimen ones, resulting from five visits to the camp by health inspectors.

The council had received numerous complaints from holidaymakers at the camp. One woman complained of sparrow flying around the dining room, and said she had seen a waiter with dirty trousers feeding the birds in the room.

Mr Smyth said that since 1972 Butlins had refused to heed repeated warnings from the council about hygiene at the camp.

Mr Michael Eastham, QC, for

the defence, said it was the first time Butlins had been prosecuted and the offences had to be viewed against 40 years of trouble-free service. New, sophisticated washing-up machines had been ordered for the camp.

Imposing the fines, ranging from £15 to £65, Mr Stanley Roth, chairman, said any company was only as good as its staff. He added: "Looking to the future, we feel that with the high degree of unemployment it may be that Butlins could possibly be a little more selective in the type of people they bring down here to service this camp."

Mr Eastham said some of those who had complained to the council had done so only after publicity, and those who had wanted compensation had been given it. Butlins had received letters from 79 people who had voluntarily written to compliment them on their standards of cleanliness after seeing the publicity.

Butlins said later: "Many of the descriptions of our Bognor Regis holiday centre have been greatly exaggerated. Most of the offences to which we pleaded guilty were of a minor, technical nature."

"At no time has there been any health risk relating to any of the charges on which we have been found guilty. We have cooperated closely with the local health and hygiene officials and following the installation of new washing equipment the council have expressed their satisfaction in us of conditions at Bognor Regis."

Scargill
on
uritism

Correspondent

Scargill, Yorkshire National Union leaders, said at Sheffield Court yesterday ever attempted to anyone over the pickers during the strike. He was a question from his Michael Kempster, second day of an

'Dangerous
ground' on
immigration

The case of an illegal immigrant who was twice arrested for failing to leave Britain on time "broke new and dangerous ground", Mr Kenneth Harrington, the magistrate, said at Haverley Road Magistrates' Court, Westminster, yesterday.

"It is a very important point. Anyone dealt with by a court for being an illegal immigrant and who is not recommended for deportation cannot be charged again if he remains here," he said.

He refused to allow the police to proceed against Ghad Nassr, aged 24, a Lebanese student, who had spent a week in Brixton prison on remand. Mr Nassr was discharged.

Miss Allison Ball, for the defence, successfully argued the defence, *autrefois convict*, meaning that a person cannot be charged twice with the same offence.

At Marylebone Magistrates' Court on February 24, Mr Nassr, of Onslow Gardens, South Kensington, was conditionally discharged for the offence under the Immigration Act, 1971, of failing to leave Britain by October 31 last.

The basic principle you treat all men equally and none is an exception. The basic principle of the law is that all men are equal and none is an exception. The basic principle of the law is that all men are equal and none is an exception.

George-Brown sees
hill task ahead

was coasting and it to be "a hell of a to get back uphill," George-Brown said in erday. He added: "y quarrel with the

farmer deputy resigned from the week, said at the the Engineering Association exhibition: "irly gloomy about of this economic We have left it e and the Govern ing inadequate steps

alized
ee winter
in style

Constable Roger said at Gloucester yesterday that he realized that a sufferer he was question of his senior left Inspector Ewart, 42, who is married sons, of Andorra urchdown, near has pleaded not tealing 14 grocery iding steak, corned d onions and sham the Tesco super- ucester, valued at

Charing Cross closure

Charing Cross station will be closed on Saturday and Sunday because of engineering work. Caterham and Tattenham Corner trains will run to and from London Bridge. Other services will be diverted to and from Cannon Street.

Corrections

The article "Piping heat from under North Sea" (March 4) should have stated that temperatures below the North Sea reach 160°C; the estimated cost of a first-stage feasibility study is £800,000; and the potential total geothermal resource under the Cornwall region, if surface temperature gradients persist to an appropriate depth, has been estimated at the equivalent of 8,000 million tonnes of coal.

A report on February 28 listing local authorities seeking to reduce costs by ceasing to take up places in non-statutory homes for old people should not have included Dorset County Council.

ish regions 'may have
ght for their interests'

Reporter

ish regions might selves forced to sensively to press omic and political devolution tipped farther in favour and Wales, Mr azell, chairman of Midlands Economic Council, said

continued: "As matters stand, the Scots in particular appear to have been able to obtain preferential treatment in comparison with other parts of the United Kingdom."

"However much this may in the past have been justified by conditions north of the border, it is not clear to this council that the disparities in public expenditure and industrial assistance as between Scotland and England would be justified by present economic and social conditions."

If the devolution proposals went forward as drafted, some means must be found of determining a block grant for devolved services that would relate it to the real needs of the different parts of the United Kingdom.

Urging a review of regional policy as a whole, Mr Hazell said: "Regional policies still based essentially on the pattern established following the Hunt report in 1969 no longer fit the facts."

Gas

HOW MUCH MONEY IS IT SAVING BRITAIN?

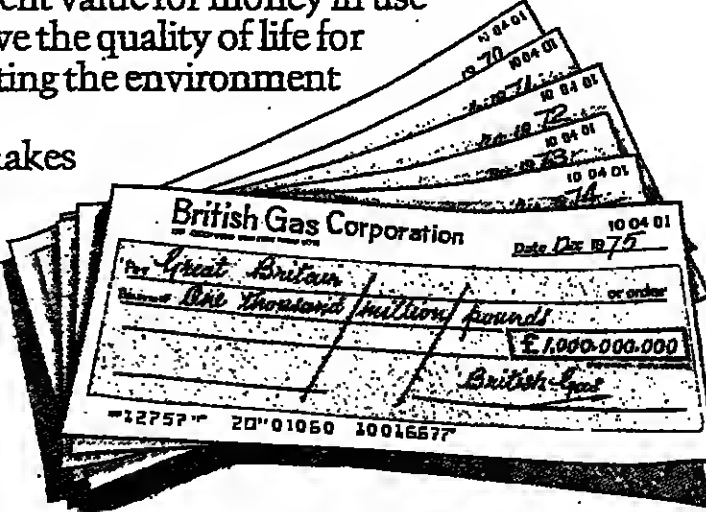
The answer is hundreds of millions of pounds a year on our balance of payments.

So when you remember that natural gas has been coming ashore for some eight years now, the total amount of foreign exchange saved for the country is truly enormous. And more than that, natural gas has also helped Britain to become increasingly independent of other countries for our vital supplies of energy.

And because natural gas is a clean, efficient, primary fuel, efficiently transmitted through underground pipelines, it offers excellent value for money in use and helps to improve the quality of life for everyone by protecting the environment from pollution.

All of which makes natural gas one of Britain's most precious assets.

So please use it carefully—it's much too good to waste.



HOW YOU CAN SAVE GAS AND MONEY

- 1 Use your central heating time clock sensibly
- 2 Turn your thermostat down a degree or two
- 3 Turn off unnecessary radiators
- 4 Insulate your roof space and hot water system
- 5 Have your gas equipment properly maintained and serviced
- 6 Ask at your local showroom for further information about how to save gas—and save money



BRITISH GAS

PARLIAMENT, March 9, 1976

South African business money used against Mr Thorpe

House of Commons
Mr James Lamond (Oldham, East, Lab) asked when the Prime Minister next hoped to meet political leaders of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Mr Harold Wilson (Huyton, Lab) said Mr Brezhnev, Mr Kossighin and Mr Gromyko had all accepted in principle invitations to visit this country. The dates for these visits had not yet been confirmed, but he hoped to announce shortly the timing of Mr Gromyko's visit.

Mr Lamond—Will he use the opportunity at these meetings to carry on the initiative he took almost a year ago to increase friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union by means of trade? This is much more constructive in his philosophy of the belligerent speeches we have heard from the Leader of the Opposition and her friends.

Mr Wilson—I have nothing to say about certain speeches. It has been the policy of successive Governments to try to build up trade with the Soviet Union ever since the war. We are now enjoying the results of the agreement of a year ago. Some big contracts with some of our major industries are under discussion.

Mr Christopher Tugendhat (City of London and Westminster, South, C) said that the Soviet Union is that we are so much more than they are. Would the Prime Minister make clear to the Soviet leaders that deals of the sort he signed at Moscow are not technology on the cheap at subsidised rates and are not compatible with the Russian system of control to deterrence? (Conservative cheers.)

Mr Wilson—All trade consists of

exchanges of technology. We are in strong competition with Western countries, including France, West Germany and particularly Italy. It is right we should not let it be assumed we are not open to that trade on the grounds of the philosophy he has announced. It would mean far fewer chances for this country.

On the question of subsidised rates of interest we have had to follow the ruling rate set by other countries in Western Europe. At Rambouillet we proposed there should be exchanges of views and common policy for interest matters.

Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton, Lab)—When the Prime Minister meets leaders of the Soviet Communist Party would he explain to them the philosophy of the economic socialists in this and other countries that we are much opposed to the idea of the dissidents being put in prison that we are against Jews not being allowed to leave the Soviet Union, that we are against democracy and that people who have sympathy with the socialist economy of Russia have no political rights? (Conservative cheers.)

Mr Wilson—I agree. These are points of interest. We are not the Soviet leaders, and first put in 1947.

Mr Peter Tapsell (Harrrogate, C) said that the serious expansion of the Soviet Union in the southern Africa, it would be more appropriate before the Prime Minister's visit to Washington to discuss with President Ford the methods by which the western world could ensure that the peoples of southern Africa have a

right to stock out their own despotism and their foreign imperialist intervention.

Mr Wilson—The Foreign Secretary and I are in the closest touch with the United States Government and other western Governments on these questions. We shall have an opportunity to make clear to the Soviet Union our views about outside intervention in southern Africa.

Mr Malcolm Rifkind (Edinburgh, Pentlands, C) asked when the Prime Minister next expected to meet the United Nations General Secretary in London.

Mr Wilson—I have met the Secretary-General on a number of occasions. I look forward to meeting him in the future whenever this is possible. I have met him in London and in the United Nations.

Mr Richard Leese (Sheffield, C) asked when the Prime Minister next expected to meet the Secretary-General of the United Nations in London.

Mr Wilson—I have met the Secretary-General on a number of occasions. I look forward to meeting him in the future whenever this is possible. I have met him in London and in the United Nations.

Mr Wilson—One of the big problems of Africa is the competing imperialism of the Russians and the Chinese. The Russians are advancing in various parts of Africa. We are to close touch with our allies on this question. And if the answer is that this could be best done in the United Nations we shall not hesitate to do so.

Mr James Whitelaw (Bexley, East, C) asked when the Prime Minister next expected to meet the Secretary-General of the United Nations in London.

him will be raised with him the Secretary-General of the United Nations in the internal affairs of democratic countries including Britain?

Mr Wilson—I have no doubt that there is strong South African participation in recent activities relating to the United Nations. I have met the Secretary-General on a number of occasions. I look forward to meeting him in the future whenever this is possible. I have met him in London and in the United Nations.

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Mr Wilson—Yes, we have made this clear to all South African officials with regard to all these countries and of course the United Nations itself went on record on our initiative on the sanctions against Rhodesia as long ago as 1965.

Mr John Pardoe (Cornwall, North, Lab) asked when the Prime Minister next expected to meet the Secretary-General of the United Nations in London.

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Estimate of Russian arms costs too low

Russian defence spending had been underestimated and had been increasing noticeably in the last three years, Mr Roy Mason, Secretary of State for Defence, said during questions on defence spending.

Mr James Lamond (Oldham, East, Lab) asked what proportion of the United Kingdom's gross domestic product was to be spent on defence in 1975-76.

Mr Mason—The share of the gross national product was estimated at about 5.75 per cent last year. The share of the gross domestic product at factor cost would be about the same.

Mr Lamond—Why is it, if there is a defence spending reduction, that the White Paper shows that this year we will spend £4,538m on defence, and in 1979-80, £4,545m?

Mr Mason—On programmed expenditure for the years 1979-80 we will be saving £2,800m on warlike expenditure.

During further questions, Mr Mason said—in the next five years it is likely we shall still be spending on the Nato group of countries more than our major European allies.

Thereafter it could be less. On Russian defence spending, Mr Mason said that the amount of money the Russians have been spending on defence and it has been increasing noticeably in the last three years.

Security of realm not jeopardized by cuts in defence spending

Mr Robert Banks (Harrowgate, C) asked the Secretary of State for Defence whether proposed cuts in defence expenditure for the third time in a year, having initially carried out the most extensive and thorough review of the United Kingdom system of defence ever undertaken in peacetime.

Mr Roy Mason (Barnsley, Lab) said that the Government's defence policy was to ensure that the country's defence and its security were not jeopardized by cuts in defence spending.

Mr Banks—It is time that he came clean and said that the country's defence and its security were not jeopardized by cuts in defence spending.

Mr Mason—I know his first test in defence, but he will have to make his position clear. I notice that the Leader of the Opposition takes the view that we are not making any cuts in defence spending.

Mr Mason—He is wrong. He has misread the public expenditure White Paper when he said that the White Paper comes out on March 17 he will see how wrong he is. We are making real cuts in defence spending.

Mr Patrick Mayhew (Royal Tunbridge Wells, C)—The Minister of

State said 14 months ago that the Government's proposals for defence spending were a judgement, not a forecast, of what we would do. He said that we would do our utmost to ensure our own security and that we would do our utmost to ensure our own security.

Mr Mason—If he takes time to read the public expenditure White Paper, he will be able to estimate the cuts in defence spending. He will see that the cuts in defence spending are not jeopardizing the security of the realm.

Mr Mason—I am sorry Mr Mayhew has got on to his old trick of saying that the Government's proposals for defence spending are a judgement, not a forecast, of what we would do.

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Chancellor sets target for growth rates needed to reduce unemployment to 700,000 in 1979

Mr Denis Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer (Leeds, East, Lab), opening a two-day debate on public expenditure, moved the House to reject the demand for massive and immediate cuts in public expenditure, which would mean unemployment and the cost of living, and recognized the need to ensure that manufacturing industry could take full advantage of the upturn in world trade by 'letting off' total public expenditure from the Government's budget.

Mr Healey said it was to explain why the Government had decided that public spending should mark time for several years after next April, what this implied for the Government's policy on public spending, and how the Government proposed to ensure that the spending outlined in the White Paper was not exceeded.

There could have been fear, if any, White Papers on public spending in the past which had unhelpful political extremists to such an extent as the present one has. It has even reached a point where the Daily Telegraph has given hospitality, if not sanctuary, to Mr Norman Ashton (Barnsley, Conservative, Lab) who wrote an article on behalf of the Tribune Group.

The reason for the levelling off in public spending was because of the Government's basic objective in their economic strategy for Britain to move into the period of world recovery. The highest possible level of employment and a steadily increasing level of exports, and with manufacturing industry steadily absorbing a greater proportion of the country's resources and manpower.

We have to reduce unemployment (he continued) to 700,000 in 1979, and certainly nothing less ambitious should be our objective, then our goal is to have a steady growth at an average rate of 3.5 per cent over the preceding three years and manufacturing output must grow at an average rate of 10 per cent a year over the same period.

Britain must seek to achieve what its main competitors, France, Germany and Japan had already achieved.

The higher rates of manufacturing investment in those countries were accompanied by an increase in manufacturing employment of 11 per cent in France, 13 per cent in Germany and 15 per cent in Japan, while manufacturing employment in Britain had fallen 13 per cent.

It would not be easy to reverse a trend which had lasted at least to the end of the last war. What other countries had done, and which we had to do, but only if it was ensured that once recovery got under way the major part of the increase in the wealth so generated went into manufacturing industry, particularly into exports and investment.

No government could give firm guarantees that those targets would be achieved, but it was not more, more for public spending. Given the prime need to base Britain's recovery on exports and investment, the public spending

envisaged a year ago and the necessary restraint on private consumption, would have required tax cuts of equivalent size in the pound more on the basic rate of income tax than was now needed.

It did not believe it would be possible to continue to cut on the necessary moderation in wage claims or the effort in industry, which would mean a loss of jobs and income.

The agreement of the trade unions to the 5.5 per cent limit last summer had transformed Britain's economic prospects in a dramatic way.

The steady fall in the inflation rate, which the TUC recognized must continue, would bring immeasurable benefits, but there would be one disadvantage in relation to public spending.

When inflation was rising at the rate it was last year and the Government's policy was to reduce the burden of servicing Government borrowing was reduced. When inflation, however, was falling, as it is now, the cost of servicing the debt interest was substantially increased.

Because of that, the burden of debt interest was likely to be about £1,000 million in 1978-79 than was envisaged a year ago for that period.

The debt interest paid at home, must be returned in tax. The interest payments which went to institutions was added to their resources, some of which might be used in industry. On the other hand about one-seventh of the debt was held abroad and the interest payable on that must be regarded as a claim on national resources.

The new constitutional council, which co-ordinated local and central government, had been set up. The Government had been successful in its programme throughout the year, had already proved its worth in local authority spending, and was an area in the past most liable to escape control. This year local councils were demanding expenditure far in excess of the Government's limits.

Most important of all, the Government was going to introduce cash limits to cover a wide range of public spending. The three-quarterly expenditure review, excluding social security benefits, would be a grant to local authorities, which would also be included in it.

Cash controls would also apply to most local authorities' capital expenditure. The Government's exception to cash limits in central government spending were items such as social security which the amount of money spent would depend on circumstances outside the Government's immediate control.

Too often in the past governments faced with this problem had simply made equal percentage cuts in all programmes across the board. The Government was determined to do better than that. They agreed at Chequers that the regeneration of British industry was the first priority. This commitment had been endorsed unanimously by the Labour Party Conference three months ago.

He did not claim that the priority of the Government had chosen were perfect in every respect. They would listen to any constructive

advice on priorities they were offered either in the House or outside, but given the scale of the problems they faced they had preferred to set their own priorities. In October, 1974, Mr Denis Healey had been quoted as saying in Glasgow only last Friday: "We support the Government completely and absolutely in its general policy, but we are against the cuts in principle but against the cuts in certain directions, for example, education and some of the social services."

In using those words Mr Healey spoke not only for himself and the Labour Party, but also for most working men and women who turned out in numbers unprecedented at a by-election to support the Labour Government. Corentin last Thursday, (Labour cheers.)

In the light of the vote of confidence in the Government, he received, not only in Coventry but at so many party and trade union meetings up and down the country, he found it difficult to believe that a Labour backbench amendment, which called on the Government to restore public services to pre-1974 levels, was a reasonable demand.

The amendment made a great deal of the TUC economic review, which pointed out that much of the present complaint on the White Paper was that the Government's proposals which generally meant a scaling down of hopes for the future in order to cut costs.

The review fully accepted the need to give priority to extra resources for manufacturing industry, but it was not without criticism and expressed concern at certain specific programme cuts.

That amendment, like the Conservative amendment, called for the White Paper to be revised. The White Paper envisaged a reduction in public services as a whole, simply a levelling off, although there might be a small reduction in the size of the Civil Service. It did not say that the Government or the country would feel that the levelling off of public service manpower was unreasonable.

Local authority manpower increased by over a million between 1969 and 1974, but manufacturing employment fell. There was nobody's interest that that steady transfer from manufacturing into service industry, public and private, should continue.

He understood the genuine concern of some Labour MPs that the Government might be breaking the fundamental principle of the Labour movement, that public expenditure should be used to correct inequalities of society and to improve the performance of the economy. The Government had not done that in the past.

EUROPE

Spain may prepare way
for King's father

General Franco's choice of Juan Carlos as King. Later the ban was lifted.

An estimated 150,000 workers are still out on strike in the Basque country. Workers at many factories returned to work this morning to hold meetings where they decided to continue their strikes until all those arrested in incidents over the past week were released.

In Basauri, near Bilbao, where a youth was killed, about 20,000 people demonstrated today. The police did not break up the demonstration.

At the court martial of an Army major and eight captains near Madrid, Colonel Luis Saez, prosecuting, today asked for the charge of plotting sedition to be changed to the more serious one of plotting military rebellion. But he did not ask for the demanded sentences, ranging from three to 12 years, to be changed.

All but one of the defendants, Captain Ruiz Cillero, refused to give evidence as a protest at the banning by military authorities of civilian lawyers. Colonel Saez said the accused belonged to the illegal Democratic Military Union and that their actions imperilled the unity of the armed forces.

Major Jose Lacalle, defending, said the accused had denied their membership of the union.

es threaten to bring
legal to a standstill

Other strikes are either operating or threatened in the textile, pharmaceutical and brewing industries, and there is a threat of electricity cuts in the northern Aveiro and Figueira da Foz areas because of a wage dispute.

A similar dispute has led the workers of a thermo-electronics firm to detain its two managers on the premises on the ground that wage claims have not been met. The police were sent to surround the premises on the outskirts of Lisbon, and the two men were removed under escort.

The Revolutionary Council today announced that it would give priority to ensuring the utmost cohesion in the armed forces. Reports of a split between political groups in the armed forces have been causing anxiety recently.

A few hours after a new weekly newspaper, *O Sol*, appeared today, a bomb exploded outside its Lisbon offices, smashing the windows.

France is
crippled by
public sector
stoppage

From Richard Wigg
Paris, March 9

A day after its setback at the hands of the Socialist-led opposition in the local government elections, the French administration suffered another blow today when a 24-hour strike by civil servants and public sector workers proved widely effective.

The strike, called by all union groupings from the Communist CGT to the moderate Force Ouvrière (FO), was aimed at forcing the Government to raise its offers in public service pay negotiations which stalled last week.

In the face of the strike's effectiveness, M. Gabriel Peronne, Secretary of State for Public Services, indicated that the talks could resume tomorrow.

There was no post today, one out of every two main line trains failed to run, and two out of three on Paris suburban lines. Schoolchildren had to stay home (the unions claimed a 90 per cent effective strike in primary schools). There were no collections by dustmen, local government offices were almost deserted, and in Paris about 30,000 civil servants joined a protest march.

The unions have chosen the public sector, with its job security, for their offensive while labour combativity in the private sector is much reduced by the consciousness of one million unemployed.

But while the Communist CGT and the Socialist CFTD see a political advantage in the timing of today's strike, M. Andre Bergeron, secretary general of the FO, has emphasized that his aim is to obtain pay concessions.

After the January increase of 1.1 per cent in the official consumer price index, the Government is anxious not to aggravate inflationary tendencies by agreeing public sector wage increases which would provoke "leap-frogging" in private industry.

Last year the hourly wage rate index increased by over 14 per cent, compared to 20 per cent the year before. But this year the Government's undeclared target is for purchas-



Post Office workers demonstrating in Paris yesterday during a national 24-hour strike by public service employees.

ing power to stay only even with the inflation rate, estimated at between 8 and 10 per cent.

Meanwhile, the Government today announced two measures to help protect workers and save jobs.

M. Michel d'Ornano, the Minister of Industry, answered appeals from shoe manufacturers faced by increased Italian and Spanish competition, by launching a programme of "several million francs" to help restructure the industry's many small firms.

In addition customs controls are to be stepped up to restrict imports of shoes and leather, and the European Commission is to be asked to look into the possibility of temporary measures to protect the French market.

M. Michel Durafour, the Minister of Labour, today also outlined a Bill to go before Parliament next month to increase safety at work. Penalties for negligence by employers and workers will be stepped up, and financial incentives are envisaged to

make firms more safety conscious on the factory floor.

According to official statistics published today, 2,117 deaths were among the total of 1,155,000 accidents at work in 1974.

M. Pierre Sudreau, author of the report on industrial reform the Government commissioned at the end of 1974, protested publicly today over the slowness of applying its recommendations. Many proposals could easily have been implemented by decree, he said.

Leading article, page 15

Reorganized
kidnap
gang strikes
again

From Our Correspondent
Milan, March 9

With the kidnapping here last night of Signor Raffaello Molinari, a wealthy scrap iron dealer, there have been four cases of kidnapping in the past month in Milan alone—two in the past four days. Last year there were 13 in the whole of Lombardy, with a total of about 11,000 lire (£74m) paid as ransom.

There had been a lull in kidnappings after the arrest of a well-known Mafia leader and 10 of his accomplices last year, but now the gang seems to have reorganized.

The police believe the kidnapping in Lombardy to be the work of a Mafia organization formed among the immigrants from the south.

Different men are used in the various stages of every single venture. Those who are involved directly in the abduction are not the same that take the victim into custody or who negotiate with the parents, which makes it difficult even when some of the criminals are caught to trace to the core of the organization.

The gang also operates an efficient information network for they are aware of the state of the victim's finances and his habits.

Minister warns
winegrowers
over shooting

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, March 9

M. Michel Poniatowski, the French Interior Minister, today warned the winegrowing community of the south-west that the "criminals" responsible for last week's fatal shooting of an anti-riot police officer would be brought to justice.

M. Poniatowski gave this pledge when he attended the funeral of Joel Le Goff, promoted colonel and decorated posthumously, at Toulouse today. The minister emphasized that France could not accept that the police should be attacked by any sectional interest, whatever its socio-economic problem.

Student jailed over
racial slogans

Oslo, March 9.—A magistrate's court today jailed a student for 60 days for racial discrimination. The student, aged 26, admitted painting slogans against coloured people on Oslo walls.—Reuter.

European MPs' concern on
direct elections pledge

From Our Own Correspondent
Strasbourg, March 9

There is growing concern among members of the European Parliament that EEC heads of government may renege on their commitment to approve a convention providing for direct elections to the Assembly when they hold their next summit in Luxembourg on April 1 and 2.

The Parliament decided today to hold a debate on direct elections on Thursday in place of their originally scheduled discussion of the Tindemans report on European Union.

A strong resolution, calling on heads of government to sign the convention without fail, is expected to be tabled by the Christian Democrat group. The European Conservatives, led by Sir Peter Kirk, and the Progressive Democrats (Gauillists and Fianna Fail) may table a more moderate version.

The Socialist group appear to be undecided on their approach. The anxiety among MPs here has been mainly aroused by what Sir Peter described as "ominous noises from Paris" suggesting that President Giscard d'Estaing's commitment to direct elections may be weakening in the face of opposition from a curious alliance of Gaullists and Communists.

Parliamentary report, page 6

Women plan world watch on oppression

From Our Own Correspondent
Brussels, March 9

The first international tribunal on crimes against women had cut across national barriers and "inspired an international spirit of sisterhood", the organizers told a press conference in Brussels today.

The five-day conference, which brought together more than 1,000 women from nearly 30 countries, produced agreement to set up a permanent network of contacts to plan international strategy on issues ranging from rape to wife-beating and a worldwide feminist newsletter. A manifesto adopted by acclaim ended with the message: "Sisterhood is powerful, women of all countries unite."

The organizers today made great play of the spontaneity of the conference, which they said, made it quite unlike similar male-organized gatherings. They also strongly deflected a decision by participants to exclude male journalists from most of the proceedings.

Mrs Lily Boeykens, a Belgian member of the tribunal's coordinating committee, said that the decision had been a good thing from the feminist point of view. It had meant that women had been granted greater opportunities than ever before to carry out their journalistic functions.

In any case, male journalists had had access to the proceedings through women delegates and press conferences.

That view was not shared by male journalists who last Friday found themselves not only excluded from the tribunal but also from press briefings outside the conference hall. In retaliation the International Press Association in Brussels issued a sharp statement denouncing what it called this "narrow-minded attitude" which "undermined the free democratic press and the equality of women and men".

The loose organization of the tribunal, which allowed individuals complete freedom to testify to the full conference at will, also led to some confusion. Last Saturday, proceedings nearly broke down during a demonstration by lesbians worried about when they would get the floor.

On the more positive side, the tribunal produced nearly 30 resolutions on various topics.

"We'd like to think that more people fly TWA across the Atlantic because we're terrific."

The in-flight crew (right) may have something. But of course everyone has their own idea.

Bill Slattery, vice president of schedules, believes TWA's 187 departures every week from Europe, to Africa and the Middle East to a total of 35 cities in America have more bearing on the subject.

Harriet Korn, director of in-flight, puts up an interesting case for the choice of 2 films and 8 tracks of international audio on every Trans World Service flight.

Dieter Buehler, head of dining, says that the choice of meals in Economy and 5 in First Class is a much more satisfying reason.

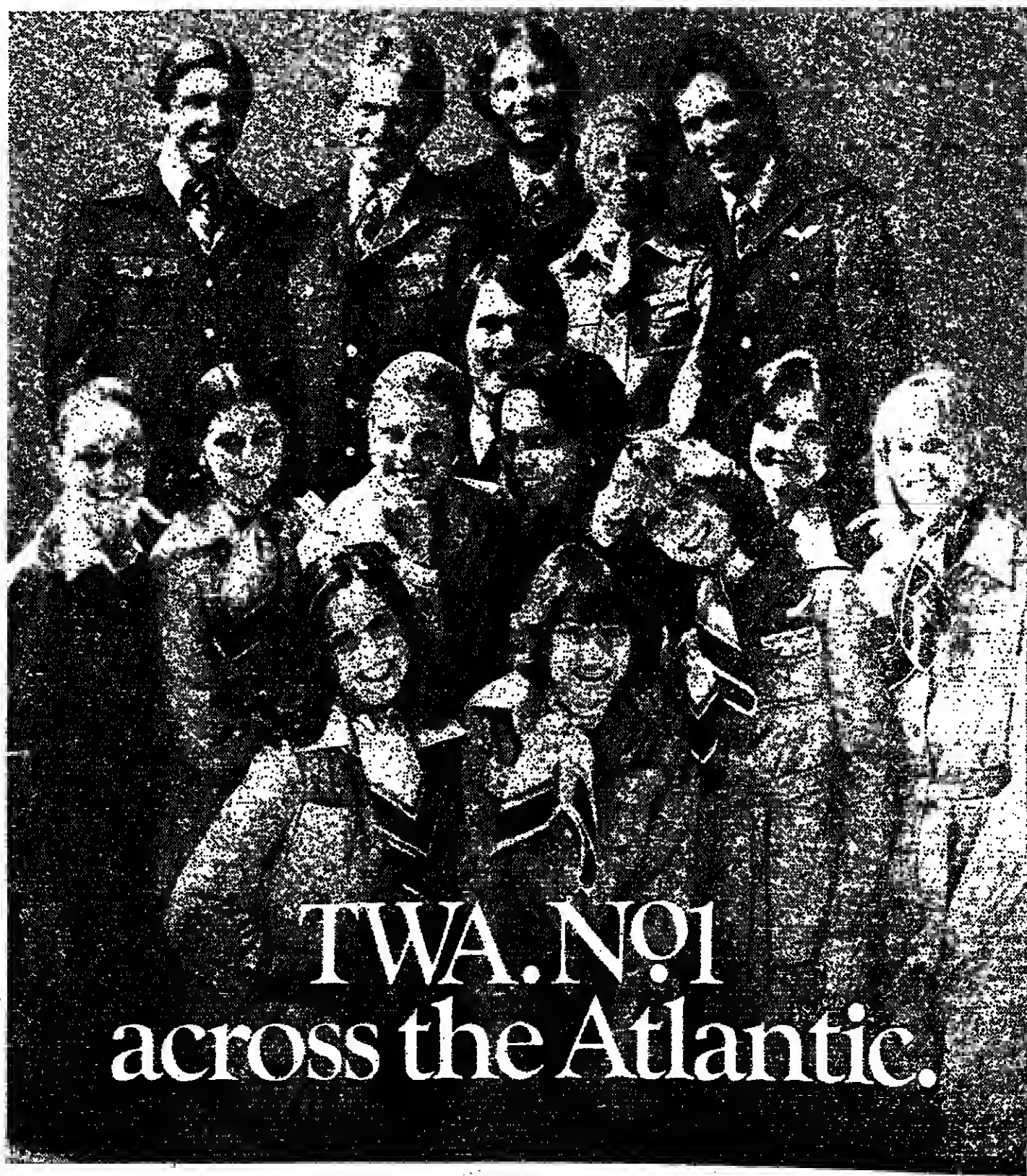
Jules Rondepierre, interior designer, suggests that TWA's wide, body-contoured seats in 747's are more of a point.

Andrée Picq, ground hostess, offers the unique location of TWA's exclusive New York terminal.

And pilots are certain that TWA's consistent on-time performance is a much more important factor.

But it may just be that Charline, Kathryn, Lewis, Sara, Shirley, Rick, Larry, Laura, Phyllis, Lynn, Ellyn, Rose, Art, Neal and Jane are right.

After all, they get to know you better than me.



President Ford tries to resolve America's dilemma over the CIA

Keeping the best spies... and keeping them in check

The simplest thing that can be said about President Ford's re-organization of the American foreign intelligence effort is that he has made the buck stop more clearly on himself. Authority for covert action has always come straight from the President, through the National Security Council. Some would say it started with George Washington, but certainly it has been law since the 1947 National Security Act founded the Central Intelligence Agency and the CIA Act of 1949 protected the secret way it is funded.

But for years "plausible deniability" was the doctrine used to protect Presidents from direct opprobrium. It did not work when Mr. Eisenhower was caught lying about the U-2 in 1960, but from now on it will not even be possible, assuming the new system works.

Mr. Ford, for all his being an accidental President, could hardly shrivel from the reforms after all that has happened since Mr. Seymour Hersh revealed in the New

York Times the illegal CIA tramping on citizens' rights through spying at home—but the subsequent disclosures revealed that the CIA was not alone and that abuses went back at least to the Eisenhower era.

Mr. Ford added to the exposure by being personally responsible for the leak last spring of CIA involvement in assassination plots against foreign leaders—telling the New York Times over lunch, whence it got to Mr. Daniel Schorr, the intrepid television reporter.

The rest of the world looked on with fascination and, doubtless, some foreboding as it all came spilling out to make 1975 the purgative successor to the year of Watergate. Mr. Ford's task was to try to rebuild confidence—straddling the delicate line between large in America in which people wanted reassurance that they were not being unconsciously spied upon, while also being reassured that their spies were still the best. It is not clear how the Pres-

ident will succeed. But intelligence men who are respected dissemi-alarms claim that the CIA has been raped of its secrets, as if by an occupation army. Battered but unbowed by revelation of its failures—while protecting its names and its successes—the CIA presses on. "We have the best men who have ever had, at all levels," one agent says, noting that applicants for jobs are ever increasing.

The main uncertainty lies with Congress. Mr. Ford has co-opted an inch in Congressmen apparently determined to have their share of control. And he has ventured, in an election year, to tamper with the people's right to know by proposing criminal punishment for disclosure of secrets, however narrowly based is the proposed Bill. The Congress, as Senator Frank Lautenberg, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, has promised, will not leave it at that. It seems certain to establish an "oversight" committee. Mr. Ford proclaims he has installed a new command

structure. Memories are short. There have, in fact, been 10 major reorganizations since 1947—including the famous one after the Bay of Pigs fiasco. In truth, President Ford cannot change functions without changing the law, and this requires Congress. What he has done, it emerged from reading all the fine print of his new Executive Order, is to try making more central, decentralizing if you will, what was supposed by its very name to be the Central Intelligence Agency, with its Director of Central Intelligence (DCI).

The DCI did not merely run the CIA. He was empowered by statute to be responsible for "correlation, coordination and dissemination" of all foreign intelligence, protecting its secrets and of performing such functions as the National Security Council might direct. Some of this was deliberately ambiguous, and ripe for abuse. The DCI already has committees by the dozen to help him, but the system, say insiders, has not worked well, and men have been found wanting.

Presidents have prevailed on directors to intervene abroad even though the CIA thought it ill advised. And Presidents have not always got the best available advice when authorizing covert operations.

Dr. Henry Kissinger, as national security adviser both before and after he became Secretary of State, comes in for much criticism. But he is only the most recent practitioner. The old system of covert actions recommendation lay with the so-called "forty committee" formerly the "303 committee". Dr. Kissinger is said to have manipulated the advice, sometimes to the point of making a jump suggestion of the committee even by telephone. It was always at the bidding of Mr. Nixon, of course.

It is here that a major change is being made. The "Forty committee" has been upgraded in membership to include the secretaries of defence and state and the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff—with the attorney general and the director of the

office of management and budget as observers. The committee has also been re-named "Operations advisory group" and the title is intended to mean that the President will be advised of group decisions, and disburse, one by one, the CIA's budget.

Dr. Kissinger, however, insists that such a committee would, for instance, have prevented the Angola adventure—which President Ford devised on the advice of Dr. Kissinger, but against the advice of the CIA and of Africa experts at the State Department. Such a committee ought certainly to have prevented an earlier, notorious, record-demonstrated how Mr. President Johnson and Nixon had their way with the CIA. Mr. Richard Helms, one suspects Mr. Helms rather liked being answerable only to the President. Once in 1970 when given special instructions by Mr. Nixon to rid Chile of Dr. Salvador Allende—outside the existing covert operations channel, "Track II," they called it—Mr. Helms testifies that the attorney general shall be in my knapsack

out of the Oval Office, it was that day. It transpired that the secretaries of state and defence and the joint chiefs were not aware of "Track II".

Obviously only the character of the President and the DCI can prevent such abuses, and it is here that many questions are being raised about the new appointee, Mr. George Bush. In addition to being a member of the "Operations Advisory Group" he is also, in another major change, made chairman of the single new committee, the Intelligence Community Management of all foreign intelligence.

He will have charge—and no DCI had this before him—of preparation of the overall secret budget for national intelligence, the fund's allocation, and what is called "reprogramming", namely shifting funds from one project to another. In the meantime, a deputy to Mr. Bush is supposed to take over day-to-day running of the CIA. If Mr. Bush can manage it,

this will be the major innovation, controlling as it does the Defence Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, as well as the CIA and others. One suggestion is that he move out of the CIA's Langley, Virginia, headquarters, and set up shop somewhere else to become a deputy overlord.

All the previous DCIs have stayed out of CIA, and become, both in person and directly, a part of the CIA's internal structure. Some have severe doubts as to whether Mr. Bush, an anti-Communist Republican politician, is heavy enough to pry the CIA away from its traditional role. The proposals have naturally aroused the ire of those who want to reduce the CIA's sole role in intelligence-gathering. But the majority opinion, clearly, seems to be that the CIA has a capacity for covert operations, even if people would like to see it as a serious men's like as would serious men of the CIA—these interventions to be a fewer and better. Fred Emery

Bernard Levin

The 17 steps to press freedom

My readers will be aware that if the "closed shop" legislation now in its final parliamentary stages should be enacted without further substantial amendment, the question of a voluntary "Press Charter" to safeguard the rights of free speech in the case of entirely unionized newspapers will have to be considered. As Mr. Michael Foot explained in his speech on Monday, there are to be discussions among interested parties to see whether such a code, mutually agreeable to all those concerned and to the general public interest in the freedom of the press, can be devised; naturally Mr. Foot feels that a voluntary code which all agree to abide by would be the best solution.

The Editor of *The Times* has already made it clear that he will take no part in the discussions concerned with producing a voluntary charter; since the Government insisted on removing all press safeguards from the legislation, he feels (as I am sure do many others) that the press has no business cooperating with the Government in drawing up a charter that is supposed to protect the freedom that the press was refused, and to the consequences inevitably inadvisable of which those who helped devise it would thereafter be committed.

Now all governments, of whatever complexion, are obliged to make plans, as far as they can, for all the foreseeable contingencies that they face. Mr. Foot, in his speech, made clear that the only function he might be called upon to exercise in this matter is that of helpful friend to all, if, as he put it, the parties to the discussions are unable to agree, to minister "should step in and assist them and possibly advise them". If, however, there are many important and absolutely irreconcilable differences, it is possible, if not probable, that the parties may well turn to him to produce a charter for their consideration, and since, as I say, governments have to be ready for all reasonably likely eventualities, it is clear that Mr. Foot could not find such a situation unprepared. Nor will he: I am in a position

to reveal today that as soon as the possibility of a Press Charter arose, through the progress of the Bill through Parliament, Mr. Foot and his advisers set to work to produce a voluntary "Press Charter" for just such a situation, and the final version was completed only a week or two ago.

By means which I am, of course, unable to disclose, a copy of the complete text of this document has come into my possession, and I have decided, after careful consideration, that although it is only, as I have explained, a contingency plan, and will only be put forward if no agreement among the participants in the discussions can be agreed, it is of such significance in its picture of the Government's thinking on these matters that its contents should be made as widely known as possible; I therefore give it herewith in its entirety.

1. In order to ensure that the press shall maintain the highest possible degree of freedom, variety of opinion and ability to withstand improper pressure, it shall be the policy of all newspaper proprietors to make it a condition of employment for their journalists to be members of any recognized trades union, provided it is the National Union of Journalists, and any journalist who, having obtained employment by fulfilling this condition, thereafter seeks to resign from such a union shall be warned that such conduct renders him liable to instant dismissal without compensation, according to the provisions of the Employment Protection Act.

2. Should any journalist, after such warning, nevertheless persist in his obduracy and take his resignation, he shall be dismissed without compensation, according to the provisions of the Employment Protection Act, but shall continue to be liable to pay to the union from which he resigned, to the satisfaction of the union, the cost of his subscription, to be paid by its members, until such time as the union in its absolute discretion shall determine.

3. All journalists shall at all times bear in mind that the capitalist press is overwhelmingly hostile to the interests of the workers by hand and brain, and shall therefore to their best endeavours ensure that their reporting, in particular the trades unions and the present Government, are presented in a favourable light.

4. Any journalist writing anything that, in the opinion of the trade union and labour movement, is unsympathetic to the cause for which the Tolpuddle Martyrs were massacred by the hundred, shall be called before the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party, to explain his conduct, and if he should fail to do so satisfactorily he shall be warned that repetition of such conduct will render him liable to instant dismissal without compensation, according to the provisions of the Employment Protection Act.

5. All journalists shall at all times avoid to their writing anything that savours of elitism, divisiveness, middle-class values, privilege, bourgeois snobbery, or opinions or hostility to the true interests of the workers by hand and brain, according to the provisions of the Employment Protection Act.

6. Any journalist writing anything that, in the opinion of the trade union and labour movement, comes into any of the categories in the previous section, shall be visited by representatives of the trade union and labour movement who shall take him aside and endeavour to persuade him to change his mind.

7. All journalists shall at all times bear in mind that the Shrewsbury two were imprisoned by a class-oriented bourgeois system of justice, just as the Tolpuddle Martyrs were massacred by the bourgeoisie. Any journalist writing disrespectfully of them, or of the Pentonville five, the Clay Cross eleven, or for that matter the Tolpuddle millions, shall be liable to instant dismissal without compensation, according to the provisions of the Employment Protection Act.

8. All journalists shall use their best endeavours to ensure that the hated Fascist Franco is driven from power in Spain and that his 90-year-old wife shall be replaced as soon as possible by a coalition of workers by hand and brain.

9. It shall be the policy of all journalists employed under this code to seek the nationalization of the press without compensation and under workers' control.

10. While it shall be open to any journalist to praise the courage of Alexander Solzhenitsyn, and to argue that the Soviet Union is a brutal dictatorship, it shall always be borne in mind that he is (a) liable to exaggerate, and (c) an elitist.

11. In all matters of interpretation of this document, or of any dispute arising out of it, a ruling shall be sought from the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party, whose decision shall be final, subject to a right of appeal to the trade union and labour movement under workers' control, according to the provisions of the Employment Protection Act.

12. All journalists shall in general bear in mind at all times that they have a duty not to do or say anything that may disprove the ideals of socialism into disrepute.

13. Any person purporting to be a journalist, though not a member of the National Union of Journalists, shall not only be liable to instant dismissal without compensation, according to the provisions of the Employment Protection Act, but he shall be liable to be permitted to seek information from any national or local government body, or any organization or firm to which the workers by hand and brain, or any of those workers, are members of recognized trades union, and any such purported journalist contravening this provision shall be liable upon conviction to a fine of not more than £100 or a term of three months imprisonment or to both such imprisonment and such fine, especially if he lives in Barnsley or Sheffield.

14. It shall be open to any journalist to criticize the terms of this Charter, provided he gives six months' notice in writing to the representatives of the workers by hand and brain under the provisions of the Employment Protection Act, and then abandons his rash intention.

15. The Charter shall come into force as soon as it has been ratified by members of the trade union and labour movement, or by the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party, or by the Pentonville six, the Clay Cross eleven, the Tolpuddle fifteen, the Tolpuddle goodness only knows how many, or the workers by hand and brain under the provisions of the Employment Protection Act.

16. This is well within the terms of the social contract.

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How the world rang the changes with Mr Bell's 'electric toy'

As early as 1882 there was one telephone for every 200 people in Chicago, but only one for every 3,000 in London

Who invented the telephone is still a matter of dispute, even across the Atlantic, of litigation. Yet there is no doubt that in March, 1876, Alexander Graham Bell shared into a telephone transmitter in the historic words: "Mr Watson, come here, I want to see you." There is no doubt either that his assistant, Thomas Watson, immediately came in from another room. For this reason, a commemorative plaque is being held today at Massachusetts Institute of Technology at which members of the present generation of the Bell family will be present.

Bell, who has proved himself both a very good publicist and a hussidom, had already filed a crucial application for a patent in March, 1876, and had been granted it on March 7, the twenty-ninth birthday, three days before the successful demonstration. In the words of William Prescott of the Bell Telephone Company, who 20 years later had to deal with the young Marconi, Bell had been working "with the true spirit of a philosopher" since 1872 to make the discovery by which intensity and quality of sounds can be sent. So had others too, and for longer. Yet Prescott was sure, as he told the British Association in 1877, that Bell had to be accorded the credit, and that he had added proof of being the first to transmit the human voice to distances beyond the reach of the ear and the eye by electricity.

By the end of 1877 the telephone had already taken its place in the book of nineteenth-century wonders along with the phonograph and Edison's laboratory. *The Times* of that date, which was as any of its contemporaries that it would now be possible to listen to the voices of the dead as well as of the living. In the small Canadian town of Brantford, where Bell lived, the local exhibition in Philadelphia, Bell demonstrated the telephone by reciting a Hamlet soliloquy. The dialogue came later, the chat later still, although *Punch*, an excellent guide to Victorian invention, introduced a letter that remarkably quickly with suggestions that kissing by telephone might be a further refinement.

The Post Office may have encouraged chat by seeking protection—because of its monopoly—by telegraphically prohibiting the phoning of messages. Yet the business was matter far more in Britain than the domestic uses. The telephone was expensive enough to constitute a luxury,

and even in Edwardian luxury homes, it was usually so inconveniently located in the corner of the hall or in the lobby between the entrance hall and the room of the smoking room and the gentlemen's lavatory that it was seldom used "for chats".

Queen Victoria, who warmed to it and to Bell, as she had done 25 years before to the telegraph, used it in 1879 to connect herself with the schoolroom of her grandchildren. Others among the rich thought of it as a superior speaking tube. Even the businessman had odd ideas about its use. One, a "noise city", but its existence, that of so much that had been invented during the nineteenth century, was taken for granted. So, too, were the trunk calls, although they constituted a small part of the telephone Post Office had taken over in 1895, but during very early months it was actually prohibited them. Communication between Bradford and Leeds, started by a Yorkshireman, was the first from London. The first outside line from London itself, in 1884, was not to an industrial city but to Brighton. The cry of a global network to be loved, but it was not until 1926 that the first telephone cable was laid across the Atlantic. When the second was opened for service by Queen Elizabeth, five years later, this number of calls had multiplied more than fourfold.

This was during the age of the "World Communication". The ringing of the telephone has sometimes carried with it threat of war, as when the telephone cable was laid across the Atlantic. When the second was opened for service by Queen Elizabeth, five years later, this number of calls had multiplied more than fourfold.

The first response of Nature to the invention, was that people would pay subscriptions to some "enterprising individual, who will, no doubt, come forward to work this vein" to listen by telephone to "A waltz, a quadrille or a galop just as you desire". The Electrophone Company, founded in 1894, was designed to meet this need, but already Parisians had been able to hear opera on the telephone, in the boulevards and Hungarians in Budapest. Bell had been offered a full regular daily news service, spiced with advertisements—beginning with "what the papers say"—and of entertainment. They had also been offered education by telephone—not only language lessons but learned lectures from the Academy.

It was not the studio, of course, which was in the heart of the twentieth-century telephone, spyglass, the exchange, and the broadcasting

role of the telephone, for a time a matter of debate, was forgotten until broadcasting emerged as a "medium" of wireless telephony, and in the 1930s, when broadcasting offered a medium, the telephone offered a network. The first telephone exchanges appeared in Britain as early as 1879. Birmingham started in 1880, London in 1881, and within 10 years, when women operators had taken over, there was talk of fully automatic systems.

It is remarkable, indeed, how many of the technical details of the telephone, including automation, television, radio, automation, privacy, social priorities, and the role of women, were raised between 1876 and the end of the nineteenth century. By then there was, as it is said, no more talk, as there had been in 1876, of the telephone being little more than "an electric toy". It might not ever be thought of as "a noise city", but its existence, that of so much that had been invented during the nineteenth century, was taken for granted. So, too, were the trunk calls, although they constituted a small part of the telephone Post Office had taken over in 1895, but during very early months it was actually prohibited them. Communication between Bradford and Leeds, started by a Yorkshireman, was the first from London. The first outside line from London itself, in 1884, was not to an industrial city but to Brighton. The cry of a global network to be loved, but it was not until 1926 that the first telephone cable was laid across the Atlantic. When the second was opened for service by Queen Elizabeth, five years later, this number of calls had multiplied more than fourfold.

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Asa Briggs

Professor Briggs is Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sussex.
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The Americans appear to be throwing themselves into their Bicentennial celebration with enthusiasm, and the junkiness is by no means confined to Government-sponsored events. A manufacturer of roofing insulation has been marking the anniversary in his own style by sending a party of his best customers and their wives on an expenses-paid trip to England for dinner at a grand home, with a free Elizabethan fancy dress costume thrown in. Alan Hamilton went to Hatfield House in Hertfordshire on Monday night, and he reports: "My 17-year-old son and I were in Tudor dress set down to a banquet in the Great Hall of Hatfield House was probably in 1558, when Elizabeth I held her first court here. The 1976 dinner was there because they had used at least £20,000 worth of Greco Patent Roofing Insulation in the past year. Raleigh must have spun to his grave. Things got off to a bad start when one of the coaches bringing the party from London missed the turning and was well on its way to Newcastle before its driver decided to turn back. Small knots of roofing contractors stood about sipping mead, trying to look nonchalant in their bright green doublets and white silk tights. Their wives tried not to hump into each other, which was made easier by the skirts of their dresses had been padded out with mounds of foam rubber, making them look as though they were hiding bicycle wheels in their underwear.

At last, an hour later, the rest of the party arrived, bringing with them the captain and crew of their chartered TWA Boeing, all suitably attired in period costumes. I was persuaded to put on a gold doublet, but I obstinately refused to give up my trousers for a pair of tights.

The man who had sold the greatest amount of roof insulation in the whole of Alabama said there was a representative there from every state of the union except Alaska, which seemed strange; you might think they needed insulation in Alaska more than they did in Alabama. "My wife and I were stuck into their Hatfield House chicken soup and baron of beef (we had a cold) and the freezer! They were entertained by the regular Hatfield House singers and musicians with a few madrigals and a turn or two on the sackbut. "Actually," I'm an ophthalmic optician in Welwyn Garden City, and my husband's an engineer. But it's a way to make a bit of extra money, isn't it?"

The visitors were impressed by the atmosphere and the cabaret, but to be on the safe side they had brought their own food and drink. The meal was cleared away and the Tudor singers and jugglers had retired, they wheeled out the Sidney Shipton dance orchestra and 27 couples dressed couples smooched and waltzed as best they could with rolls of foam rubber between their legs.

"Don't forget your passport pictures for Tanzania," the organizer reminded them over the microphone. Otherwise they would miss their stop, an African night in Dar es Salaam—with costumes, of course.

The Times Diary

An evening in Merrie England

The tour organizer, from Bradford, who looked fetching in his blue and silver outfit, told me his Canadian wife had designed the costumes and had had them made by the women of a Buckinghamshire village. "My wife is a specialist in English history," he said proudly. Al and Sal Frasca from Chicago almost wore out their instamatic taking pictures of each other and their friends. "We plan to go to quite a few costume parties in this year when we get home. Our kids will love it," said Al. "This foam rubber in my skirt is making me kind of hot", complained Sal.

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mouched, he explained, to sell tickets and fill boxing arenas. Now people would have an opportunity to learn how nice he really is by reading his book "which contains many things I have over revealed about myself before".

In the Islamic religion we have a saying that God is the greatest, and I am not God," said Ali modestly. "I am only the greatest in the sport of boxing." Even so, he admitted, it was hard to be humble when you had written such an incredibly great and wonderful book, and when you were so naturally wonderful as he was. "You have made the whole world think you were a crazy bignotch, and not a deep thinker at all."

"The man who has no imagination stands on the earth. He has no wings and cannot fly," said Ali profoundly. "The wise man can act the fool but a fool cannot act the wise man," he added sagely. But it does fine to have that much wisdom at press conferences, he admitted. "You have in mind small to reach average people," he said, looking at us philosophically.

Gambit

Foreigners are discovering that London is the place to get things cheap. Underwear raids on Marks and Spencers are already well established, now they are after our games.

Dawn Allan of Hamleys in Regent Street tells me that the French are now organizing day trips to London's best known toy shop. This year's invasion will continue until Christmas Eve. "When we see a party of 30 French schoolchildren hurrying through the door, our first reaction is to run for cover. They spend anything up to three



hours in the shop, and they have no shortage of money to spend."

By far the most popular game with the French is Scrabble, which is produced in French, German, Spanish, Dutch and most recently Afrikaans versions, to account for the varying frequency of certain letters in different languages. Richard Spear, chairman of the Enfield firm which makes it, told me: "A Frenchman buying the English version will be very disappointed." Naturally Hamleys stock the foreign editions.

Concords of French mothers and grandmothers prefer toys, and the Spanish will buy a dozen at a time of anything that has Tower Bridge or a Beefeater on it. They all go for

figsaws, depicting typically English scenes. The Arabs want toys that are either very large or very expensive. A four-foot high cuddly lion at £375 is popular with them, and only the other week one of the six model cars at £300 each to be sent out to the Gulf.

Missionary

John Bell is a film distributor who wants to bring a little light to the cultural wilderness he believes to exist in Britain beyond the frontiers of Shaftesbury Avenue. Yesterday he held a party at the National Film Theatre to launch his mission to the deprived masses of Warrick and points north.

Bell's company has created a British Film Theatre, a kind of travelling repertoire, made from successful productions and home-grown casts. The Theatre has its premiere tomorrow at the Curzon cinema, off Piccadilly, with *Buzy*, directed by Harold Pinter and starring Alan Bates.

He hopes the first seven films, which also include Harold Pinter's *The Homecoming* and John Osborne's *Luther*, will be widely seen in provincial cinemas. "They should appeal to the missing millions of the cinema," said Bell. "People stay at home because there are so few provincial theatres to go to, and because they are too intelligent to watch most of the films that go on general release nowadays."

The Eastern Daily Press has been uncovering industrial atrocities. A headline last week ran: *Holkham Pottery fires 14 staff.*

PHS

سلافة الامم

Channel Islands



St Peter Port church seen from the Old Harbour, Jersey; picking spring daffodils for export to Germany, Sark; Grève de la Ville.

Clouds lift as inflation provides own cure

by Patrick O'Leary

the Channel Islands provided its own cure. In the Channel Islands, the biggest revenue raiser, brought in more than £100m. Because of the economic crisis many wealthy investors switched money out of low-yielding equity shares into high-income fixed-interest stocks.

Few of the 125,000 Channel Islanders grumbled that their rulers had been over-cautious in taking steps to avoid an economic blizzard which blew over. Their affairs are conducted on good house-keeping principles, and 1977 could still be tough.

Mr Colin Powell, Jersey's economic adviser, says: "The potential vulnerability of the island to the impact of external forces over which it has no control makes the need for disciplined budgeting all the more important. Acceptance of new policies and new projects should depend on evidence of cash availability, not on an assumption as to future financial resources."

Guernsey does not dissent. There is a feeling that the economic strategy pursued in 1975 was right and should be continued.

An example of this caution...

is the decision in both islands to hold a census in April, only five years since the last, instead of waiting for the usual 10 years. Neither has any immigration control at point of entry, and there are suggestions that populations are a thousand or two higher than the estimated 52,000 for Guernsey and 72,000 for Jersey.

Since income tax is a flat 20 per cent and there is no surtax, capital gains tax, estate or gift tax duties or value-added tax, the islands are attractive to the rich.

Restrictions on settling in Guernsey operate through low-priced housing being reserved for genuine islanders. Otherwise it is necessary to be classed as an essential worker. Over the years 1974-84 it is hoped to limit growth in population to 7 per cent.

Jersey's target is to restrain the increase to 500 a year. Only those who will contribute to the economy, by skill, enterprise or paying large tax bills, are allowed to buy or rent property.

Alderney, which has its own States Assembly,

although to the Bailiwick of Guernsey, has imposed even stricter regulations. Faced with seven people registered as unemployed, it has just decided to introduce work permits.

Other islands are concerned about unemployment, especially among the young, although it is far below the levels suffered in Britain. So far, what the islanders call the mainland has not exported its recession to them in the same way as inflation.

Prices are often higher than in Britain. Guernsey Gentlemen's Hairdressing Federation has put up the cost of a haircut from 50p to 65p.

Islanders are even more wary of any hint that Britain is trying to export its high tax rates. British emigrants settling after November 12, 1974, are deemed to be still living in Britain for capital transfer tax purposes.

One banker commented in the *Jersey Evening Post*: "My firm belief is that over the next few years we shall favour. They are philosophical about British steps to make it harder for its own citizens to escape the tax net, but alert to safeguard

the interests of old-established islanders and the banks and trusts which contribute to revenue.

They feel that any EEC threat is unlikely as long as Monaco and Luxembourg enjoy a special position. Attempts to close havens within the market could drive mobile money to places where it would neither benefit Europe nor be within its control.

Wishful thinking plays a part in this cheerfulness. Internal political pressure in the prosperous islands is low. Guernsey goes to the polls on March 24 but for those eligible for the electoral register only 50 per cent returned the forms. About half of these are expected to vote.

Much power is left with the chairman of committees responsible for various aspects of the economy, and perhaps even more in the hands of officials who advise them. As in other countries, the number of public servants has increased and is still rising, and so is expenditure.

In 1976 estimates for education, public health and social security in Jersey total £16.8m, double the 1973 figure.

Nobody will doubt the Channel Islanders' determination to preserve the degree of independence they have enjoyed for 1,000 years. They emphasize that their link with Britain lies not through Westminster but with the Crown. The islands were part of the Duchy of Normandy before William the Conqueror invaded Britain.

Laws passed by the States of Jersey and Guernsey receive the royal assent by Order in Council. Presumably, if the Chancellor of the Exchequer tried to make a fiscal takeover of the islands, the Queen could call upon her Privy Counsellors to defeat them. What excitement there would be among constitutional lawyers.

A fanciful idea, but in the Channel Islands old customs are not reserved for tourists. The appeal for help known as the *Clameur de Haro* can be raised by any citizen to restrain another from allegedly infringing his interests until the appropriate court decides the matter. It was recently used by a shopkeeper who complained that construction work near by was harming his trade.

Investors like area's respectability

Guernsey has about 45 deposit-taking companies holding more than £500m. In Jersey the figure is 35 companies with funds of £1,100m. Of that total some £200m is in foreign currency deposits and another £200m represents sterling deposits from countries outside the scheduled sterling area.

Nobody offers a guess at how many further millions are managed by trusts and similar funds. In Jersey alone 2,000 companies have been registered in the past 10 years.

Both islands acted to restrain the number of banks when a few years ago, they seemed likely to take over the main streets of the capitals, St Peter Port and St Helier. They have also been forced to recruit most of the staff locally instead of importing them from Britain and elsewhere.

Bankers and investment managers like the islands. As one said, "Jersey is not too greedy." Tax is levied at 20 per cent on both personal and company income. There is a corporation tax, but this is only £300 a year, and is confined to companies registered in the islands but not controlled there, which do not pay income tax on all their income. Capital gains are not taxed.

When officials and bankers refer to the area as stable, they mean not only that it is politically quiet, but that investors can rely on consistent tax policies. Jersey's income tax has been 20 per cent since 1940, while Guernsey fell into line in 1960 after flirting with a higher rate plus surtax.

Respectability as well as stability is now prized in international financial centres. "People come from different parts of the world to set up operations here in preference to other locations," a Guernsey merchant banker said. "They do not talk about stability, they feel there is something respectable about this location. Also, it is close to London and easy to get to and from the Continent."

He rejected the idea that this harmed Britain. "We are convinced much more money flows into Britain through our operations than flows out. If anyone wants to transfer money illegally it is more likely to go through Dover than the Channel Islands."

The link with London will be reinforced when the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Lindsay Rigg, a Lloyd's underwriter, visits the Channel Islands in May.

Co-seiller E. D. Collas, President of Guernsey's Advisory and Finance Committee, said: "Our finance industry is of value to the United Kingdom balance of payments. As we have no central banking system of our own anything which we produce goes into the United Kingdom pool."

Officials emphasize that they did not deliberately set out to make the islands a sort of accommodation address for mobile money. Much of the expansion arose through policies pursued by Britain over which they had no control.

Heavy taxation encouraged people to emigrate. In 1972, when Britain reduced the scheduled territories drastically, the Channel Islands remained in the sterling area. This increased their attractions, for accounts of non-residents of the scheduled territories are generally classified external in the islands, and may be operated with a minimum of restriction.

The banking boom roared ahead, and finally had to be restrained. At one stage projects which would have required 7,500 extra staff were planned in one island alone.

Although some of the companies which arrived during this expansion have discreetly disappeared, or were rescued by more prosperous rivals, major scandals have been averted. Depositors are protected by law, and Jersey boasts that one operator who has since been severely criticized was refused permission to open up.

Banks from Australia, the United States, Canada, and Holland, together with companies which draw business from the Middle East, Africa, Japan, Italy, and West Germany are among those established in the islands. There are even two from Hongkong and Bermuda, places with their own tax advantages.

continued on page 11

Going to live abroad?

For people who decide that emigration is the answer for them, believe me, the matter which corner of the world has taken their fancy—that will be much less wearisome and more prosperous once they get up home in the country of their choice.

Fortunately, many find out the way that leaving Britain brings a formidable list of taxation,

legal and Exchange Control problems, many of which can only be dealt with successfully with the benefit of professional advice before departure.

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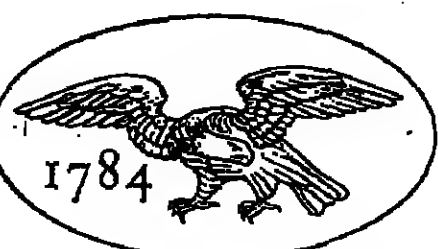
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New and vital navigation aids to shipping

by Bob Baker

Living at the southern end of one of the world's busiest seaways, and visited by more than 10,000 private yachts annually, Channel Islands are no strangers to shipwrecks and rescues. Every year brings a new crop of incidents. Most are of a minor nature, but some involve strandings, sinkings and loss of life.

A contributory factor is the increasing amount of maritime traffic in the area—about 350 ships a day, excluding cross-Channel ferries. Others include storms, fog, mechanical failure, human error, panic, ignorance, even blind stupidity and drunkenness.

It is estimated that since 1965 about 40,000 tons of commercial shipping have been wrecked near the islands with the loss of more than 30 lives. In 1974 Guernsey saw the stranding of the giant bulk ore carrier Elwood Mead on its maiden voyage, and the destruction by hurricane of the 2,000-ton Ceylon freighter Prosperity whose crew of 18, including a pregnant woman, was drowned.

History books and hundreds of barnacled buoys littered on coastal seabeds prove that the situation is not new. So much British shipping was being lost in the area that in 1723 United Kingdom merchants organized the building of the first warning beacons on the notorious Les Casquets reef near Alderney. Among scores of ships to founder there was the prized flagship Victory.

In 1744 its entire complement of 1,100 officers and men perished.

Today Les Casquets light and foghorn, along with

those of Les Hanois, Guernsey, Corbiere, Jersey and the French Les Roches Douvres remain vital navigation marks. Jersey's state-owned Corbiere, for the past hundred years the most southerly manned light-house in the British Isles, has recently become fully automated, its keepers replaced by a computer system known as BAPS (Beacon Automated Processing System). Its refinements include an experimental direction and distance finding radio device coupled with a weather state indicator.

It is one of several new aids introduced in the area lately. Guernsey's newest is an augmented direction finder installed at the island's La Villazie airport with a "slave" extension to St Peter Port harbour signal station. Operating 24 hours a day on channel 16, the emergency frequency, the ADF is believed to be the first of its kind working in British waters.

Within seconds of receiving a mayday call, or other distress message, the equipment produces the compass bearing along which the vessel, used in conjunction with airport radar in Jersey or Guernsey, is a considerable advance with an exciting development potential.

Both main islands, whose lifeboat crews have formidable records for courageous rescues, have new Royal National Lifeboat Institution craft. Guernsey's is the 52ft long, steel-hulled and self-righting Arun Class Sir William Arnold which cost £150,000 and travels at up to 18 knots. Jersey has a similar smaller vessel

Thomas James King capable of 15 knots and named after a former coxswain.

These are supported, if need be, by various publicly-owned and private craft, while in Guernsey—the coordinating centre for southern Channel operations—the St John Ambulance has one of the world's finest collection of rescue equipment. It includes a high-speed marine ambulance, Flying Christine II, an rescue craft, fully-trained and equipped cliff-rescue teams, recompression units, and considerable radio communications resources.

The unit's facilities, commanded by a Royal Commissioner, Reginald Blanchard, have been developed at a cost of about £70,000 over recent years and include a mobile radar van designed to travel to government coastal locations for tracking down stricken vessels.

With the blessings of several United Kingdom authorities the St John team is also conducting a five-year trial of a transponder device which, fitted to rescue craft, immediately indicates their geographical position on monitoring radar scanners. If the trials are successful similar transponders, already standard equipment on most aircraft, may eventually be fitted to every ship at sea.

For several years, liaison between the relevant United Kingdom, French and island authorities has produced significant improvements in air-sea rescue procedures and communications in the area. It is now possible for a search and rescue co-ordinator, usually the Guernsey or Jersey barbourmas-



Corbiere lighthouse, Jersey, which has recently become fully automated.

ter, in call on a battery of outside resources—passing commercial and service ships and aircraft, and air-sea-rescue helicopters. As part of the reorganization the Coastguard Service has made its Brixham base the key communications centre for United Kingdom resources, while the French Centre Régional Opérationnel de Surveillance et de Sauvetage Secteur Manche, particularly at Cherbourg, has been drawn much closer into further development of "the circle of safety". At Jobourg, Cap de la Hague, an experimental radar ser-

vice has been set up to monitor movements in the shipping lanes near by. But while much has been done to improve rescue services, Channel Islanders have found it hard to forget the Torrey Canyon disaster of 1967 when 868,000 gallons of "chocolate mousse" smothered several Guernsey beaches. It cost some £35,000 to clean and left many people sensitive to the damage that could be caused to the local tourism-oriented economies by a similar incident closer at hand.

There have been some narrow squeaks. In 1974 a fully-laden supertanker broke down in fog in the shipping separation lanes near Les Hanois. Repairs were eventually completed and the huge ship steamed off into the night, its crew unaware of the signs of

relief from Guernsey's radar scanner. The incident illustrates how vulnerable the islands remain to misadventure, the separation lanes Guernsey and Alderney established in 1964. The mention of a major disaster largely depends on enforcement of standards of seamanship and the development of Anglo-French plans to prove radar and air surveillance of Channel movements.

Settlers attracted to tax haven

by Willa Murray

The differences that exist between the individually self-governing Channel Islands are something that newcomers usually discover first when they go house hunting.

If you are not rich enough, or distinguished enough, to gain entry to Jersey, you can make the 15-minute hop to Guernsey where a different set of rules applies. Or you can cross to Sark, where buying a freehold property depends simply on availability and the consent of the island's Seigneur, or to Alderney, where there are no restrictions.

For tax and other reasons and not least because they seem peaceful havens the Channel Islands attract far more would-be settlers than they can take.

Sark and Alderney are small enough to deal with the problem simply by building restrictions. Jersey and Guernsey have had to devise systems of control that will enable them to absorb a limited number of wealthy settlers and essential workers without sending house prices soaring and building on their remaining green spaces.

Jersey's policy now is to allow to a maximum of 15 new wealthy immigrants a year after topping up any losses through death or departure. One of the qualifications is to be able to pay at least £10,000 local income tax at 20p in the pound, though other factors, including the house you want to buy, are also taken into account. Alternatively, you can qualify on social grounds, such as being a leading musician in a band whose presence would be an asset to the island.

Those who apply on economic grounds deal privately with Mr Colin Powell, Jersey's Economic Adviser, who satisfies himself that their assets are sufficient. Senator John Avery, the president of the Housing Committee, explains: "This ensures confidentiality—nobody else knows any details except perhaps the applicator's bank manager."

Settlers in this bracket are advised to look for properties of about £100,000 upwards to get the necessary final seal of approval from the Housing Committee. This figure is nothing unusual to Jersey—leading estate agents have properties in their books extending from £250,000 to £1m.

Young island-born couples find they must pay in the region of £15,000 for a three-bedroom terrace house. When a two-bedroom bungalow was advertised for £10,000 last year, the Jersey newspaper received 185 replies within two days.



In Guernsey new building on the open market is allowed only at the luxury Fort George housing estate on the outskirts of St Peter Port. It was developed for wealthy settlers and is now almost completed.

and three replacement wealthy settlers admitted into Jersey in 1975 were Tony Jacklin, the golfer, who paid £165,000 for a five-bedroomed country house with a cottage and swimming pool in extensive grounds, and the Earl of Shrewsbury. The Earl bought a luxury bungalow with three bedrooms and bathroom suites, staff quarters and a walled garden for about £250,000.

Tommy Horton, the former South African Open champion golfer, is another new resident. Mr Horton, who spent his boyhood in Jersey, last year accepted the post of senior professional to the Royal Jersey Golf Club, and acquired a cottage-style old farmhouse for £37,000.

Immigrant essential workers such as accountants, top bank management and doctors are allowed to buy property from £30,000. Middle-management bank and similar staff must occupy company property in this price range, and can have a house of their own only after 10 years' residence. Some companies have had to buy houses costing nearer £50,000 for their staff.

Channel Islands estate agents report that property prices are on the move again after slowing down in 1975. This slowing down, which was more evident in Jersey than in Guernsey, was created by uncertainties in the United Kingdom property and stock markets and the introduction of capital transfer tax, now no longer believed to be any real deterrent for people wishing to settle in the archipelago.

It seems likely that some Jersey houses for sale at between £80,000 and £100,000 may come down in price. Mr John Wright, of John D. Wright & Partners, says: "Some people may have to

be more realistic about prices in this range if they genuinely wish to sell their property."

Flats are available for sale in Jersey, unlike in Guernsey where they can only be rented. They cost from about £10,000 to more than £100,000 for a luxury penthouse, and the supply of luxury accommodation is limited.

Two-tier housing system

Many estate agents feel the £100,000 price tag for wealthy settlers should be reduced, mainly because these properties tend to be larger than their clients really require. Mr Freddie de Gruchy, of de Gruchy & Co. says: "Why should a couple with no family be conditioned to buy a house with seven or eight bedrooms?"

United Kingdom building societies do not operate in the Channel Islands, though Jersey Savings & Loan Corporation and its Guernsey counterpart were set up to perform a similar function. The Royal Trust Company of Canada (CI) has recently introduced a building-society type mortgage scheme designed to step in where Jersey's states loan scheme leaves off—presently at £12,000.

Guernsey operates a two-tier housing system that kept down costs for island-born residents more effectively than in Jersey, and has also made life simpler for estate agents and buyers. Nevertheless, the system has its critics.

Property is divided into open and local markets. The first is a pool of about 1,500 houses from about £30,000 to £300,000 available with-

out restrictions to new comers. Lower-priced local market properties are reserved for people with residential qualifications, or for essential workers under licence to occupy by the housing authority.

New building on the open market is allowed only at Fort George, a luxury housing estate on the outskirts of St Peter Port developed specifically for wealthy settlers and now almost completed. Prices there are from about £25,000 to £250,000. A house at £125,000 at Fort George is likely to have central heating, double glazing, three or four bedrooms, two reception rooms, two bathrooms, fitted kitchen, utility room and magnificent sea views.

But as Mr Gordon Miller, of Miller, Clemons & Co. points out: "To a couple who have come from a 28-acre estate in Sussex, for example, some open market properties in Guernsey are twice the price they would expect to pay. What they are buying in real terms, however, is not just a house but a tax haven—and a pleasant way of life. We seldom lose people who decide to settle here."

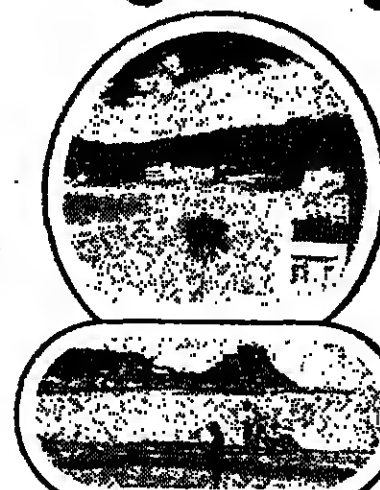
Lovell & Partners, which operates in both islands, has sold Guernsey houses to newcomers who have found the qualifications for Jersey residence too rigorous, and have opted for Guernsey instead.

Lovell is the agent for one of the few Guernsey properties that equate in terms of size and grandeur with top Jersey homes. Havilland Hall, owned by Count Blucher, a German businessman, is up for sale at £400,000. It was built in 1775 by Colonel Thomas Fiott de Havilland, an architect and engineer who built Madras harbour and drained the Poquaj. The 50-acre estate also contains a farmhouse, farm buildings and a cottage.

Banks also help in tax-gathering. There is no official Paye scheme, but employers can make arrangements to deduct so much a month from wages to send to the island revenue.

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April could be a wicked month for the Jersey potato

by Patrick O'Leary

Jersey and Guernsey are well known for their potatoes. But no one is more anxious than the local newspaper to report a suspected case of the complaint in a young girl. The human variety is said to be mild.

Known for rich milk, longevity and hardiness, Jersey potatoes have been exported to many lands. But their purity of breed and freedom from brucellosis and other bovine afflictions have been guarded by a ban on imports of live cattle into the island since 1789, and subsequently of semen.

This isolation could be threatened by European Economic Community regulations when the present protective period ends in 1978. Jersey's Committee of Agriculture have today a case for retaining the ban, and the commissioners in Brussels are expected to reply soon.

Professor Albert Meservy, president of the Royal Jersey Agricultural and Horticultural Society, said the export trade in cattle was excellent in the immediate post-war years. But it had declined later.

"Some years ago I said the future of the Jersey was in the underdeveloped countries of Africa and the Middle East," he said. "I believe the origin of the declining Jersey cow was from the East, so it is like going home again."

The professor added: "Libya already has 80 animals and is considering further imports. Pakistan is interested, but there is no hope of meeting its requirements for two years. Farmers have not been registering calves because they were unable to sell them. Last year 1,000 newborn calves were slaughtered and used to feed zoo animals and dogs."

With a budget which has risen to £1m a year, the Department of Agriculture is one of Jersey's big spenders. But, apart from payments to help to keep the island self-sufficient in milk all this year round, most assistance to farmers is in loans and bounties designed to encourage efficiency.

In both Jersey and Guernsey, marketing is seen as important in maintaining the leading role of agriculture and horticulture in the use of land and labour. In Jersey the flower industry is receiving help this year to sell to the exacting continental markets.

Looking down on the many glasshouses at the airport, it is difficult to believe the area of indoor cultivation is contracting. Nevertheless, horticulture is still the island's largest single source of overseas earnings.

Especially replacement of old glasshouses by new, and amalgamation of small units. A spokesman said: "Last year more glass was built than at any time in the last 15 years, 35 to 40 acres against 15 normally."

Some 95 per cent of exports go on pallets. This year growers switched from the former 12lb package to six kilos, not without problems. A more immediate difficulty has been a gloomy winter, which has held back crops and given another twist to rising fuel bills.

Guernsey Tomato Marketing Board would like a regular roll-on, roll-off service to Britain for their wares, but this is uneconomic unless return loads can be arranged. Customers can be demanding. A board official said retailers like to see tomatoes with the calyx still on. This stalk is often knocked off in picking and said: "About 70 producers are now in, selling about £2m of flowers, which accounts for 30 per cent of total value. Roses, freestias and carnations are included; there are not so many daffodils now."

A year ago, Mr J. A. Le Garff left the tomato board after being successively secretary and manager for many years. Instead of retiring, he is now bringing flower growers into a similar cooperative.

Mr Le Garff, whose office is on the edge of the airport, handles exports, very difficult to get flowers to market in good condition. "Today there are only about 150 farms. In the next decade perhaps the number will drop to 80 or 100."

As in Jersey, the island has its own distinctive breed of cattle. But a pilot scheme using Charollais has begun.

Sea fishery catches off the islands have gone up sharply in recent years. Guernsey exports crabs and lobsters, while Jersey has two commercial oyster farms with a third in the planning stage.



Last year Guernsey sent £15.7m of tomatoes to Britain, £3m up on 1974. Right: because of the weather it was a poor season for flowers last year.

People who need fewer people

by Edward Owen

While an overall population policy for Guernsey is being worked out, the task of immigration control falls in effect on the island's housing authority. This year it is cutting 125 new housing licences issued to immigrants (who include returning Guernsey men who have lost their residential status). Until recently upwards of 300 licences a year were being granted.

In both the larger Channel Islands a person without residential qualifications needs official permission to occupy any kind of permanent accommodation, even a furnished flat. Originally intended simply to reserve lower-priced housing for local people, these laws have become a form of immigration control, particularly in Guernsey.

As such, however, they are decidedly hit-and-miss. Guernsey MP a high population in an affluent Channel Islands, it would be the level of, for example, the American one for every two in Jersey and a very two and a half in Jersey where the population is dropping and Guernsey is rising. The population is essentially on a vital needs basis. A vital needs basis is to be at which this with no immigration arrivals from the mainland, it can provide that the data and projected year will not be a much-needed for forecasting how effective in curb immigration has been and controls are the approach has been the fun of trying to migration by level of economy and hence of new jobs. Colin Powell, economic adviser to the island must notify the housing authority and like wise the person providing him with accommodation.

Guernsey's latest housing law is expressly designed to build up a more indigenous population in an island where at least a third of the present inhabitants are non-native. The housing authority has also promised to allow back more Guernsey-born people.

Nevertheless, it remains a touchy political issue that the home-bound Guernsey man has to queue for a housing licence, while a moneyed Englishman can buy his way in by taking one of a registered pool of higher-priced "open market" properties available for occupation by anyone who can afford them. But the economic reality is that, both in Guernsey and Jersey, rich settlers have become an important leg of the economy.

Employers to the Channel Islands have had to learn to live with the restrictions. Recruitment of staff is not just a matter of finding the right person, but of convincing the authorities that he is essential enough to be housed. Prudent companies now consult an official before advertising a job outside.

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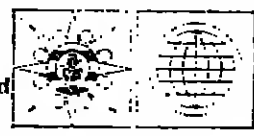
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Pattern of tourism is changing

by Robin Mead

Two personal vignettes of Jersey. The first: a brief summer stay, at the four-star Longueville Manor Hotel—arguably the best hotel in the Channel Islands—and being the only person to order a traditional British crooked breakfast in a dining-room which proved to be full of holidaymakers.

The second: a chilly winter weekend at the Mayfair Hotel, whose owners make a speciality of cut-price off-season package trips where your heart could not fail to be warmed by a non-stop flow of food, drink, entertainment—and sheer fun.

The hotels and the occasions are probably as far apart as they could be. But these pen pictures go to show that the pattern of tourism is changing in Jersey.

Between the wars the Channel Islands were an eight-hour boat trip from Southampton, a breath of "abroad" which captivated an almost entirely British clientele of annual visitors. After the Second World War and five years of German military occupation, the islands surprisingly boomed again, with Jersey in particular earning a reputation as a swinging "hot" in summer. Business was good enough to give rise to the

claim that in Jersey you will never meet a poor hotelier. Regardless of the economic climate on the mainland and the heavy competition from Mediterranean resorts, the boom in tourism has continued. Now Jersey, just 25 minutes' flying time away from Gatwick airport by scheduled jet aircraft, attracts more than 750,000 visitors a year.

But that total hides two secrets. Last year an estimated 100,000 visitors to the island were from the Continent. The figures are high, partly because of the considerable efforts which are being made to extend the tourist season and to promote winter weekends.

Mr. Leslie Rebindaine, chief executive of the island's tourism department, explains: "Continentalers come here because, frankly, it is a jolly sight cheaper to come here than to stay at home if you happen to be a foreigner." A comparison of prices in the Channel Islands with those in France or West Germany lends weight to this view. The exchange rates already make shopping anywhere in Britain an attractive proposition for most northern Europeans; in the Channel Islands this attraction is enhanced by the absence of value-added tax or any similar tax. For this reason it is thought that, in addition to the 100,000 continental people who spent holidays in Jersey last year, at least as many again visited the island on one-day shopping visits.

Such day trips are made simple by the excellent hydrofoil service which now links Jersey with the French port of St. Malo, a service which has also encouraged tourists from other parts of Europe who like to drive to St. Malo and then catch the ferry.

Even Scandinavians and Dutch visitors do this, although the Dutch also benefit from a direct air link with Guernsey. This link has established Jersey's quieter neighbour as a popular holiday destination in Holland. British Airways do good business with their twice-weekly direct flights between Guernsey and Amsterdam in summer. Mr. John Salmon, the island's assistant director of tourism, says: "The numbers are so good because we have promoted ourselves there and this has stimulated interest."

It has stimulated interest to such an extent that one British firm specializing in inclusive holidays to the Channel Islands has been able to open its own office in Amsterdam. Mr. David Smith, managing director of Prestan Travel, says: "We now do a brochure in Dutch, and have departures from Amsterdam and Rotterdam. There is also a lot of interest in the Ruhr region, so we do a brochure in German, too, with departures from Frankfurt and Düsseldorf. We also have Dutch and German-speaking staff in Jersey to look after our customers."

France, Germany and Holland provide the bulk of overseas visitors to the Channel Islands. But the tourist authorities and tour operators are already looking further afield, to Scandinavia, Switzerland, and to Canada and the United States (Guernsey reported considerable American interest in the island last year).

The overseas invasion coincides with the success of efforts on both main



The narrow cobbled High Street, St Peter Port, Guernsey.

islands to boost spring and autumn holidays, and increasing attempts to stimulate winter holidays there. "The attractions in winter are the cheap package deals and the duty-free shopping," Mr. Salmon says. "In Jersey there is an increasing tendency for hotels to remain open all year. With new building almost impossible, a number of old-established hotels have recently undergone facelifts including the Central, The Royal Yacht, the Merton, the Agremont, and the Hotel de France where a big new conference centre stands on what used to be the front garden. A new purpose-built hotel, the Oasis, will be opened later this year on the site of a burnt-out hotel, and a £750,000 development is taking place at Jersey Holiday Village at Portelet."

The stop-go development of the 23-acre Fort Regent leisure complex in the Napoleonic fort dominating the town of St. Helier is going ahead again. Its sports and leisure facilities include a new "dry-skate" skating rink.

Mr. Maurice Segal, managing director of the Modern Hotels group, says: "I am convinced that Jersey is a place for groups in the winter—a place for fun weekends rather than for individuals." His company will be offering inclusive winter weekend breaks on the island next winter at prices starting at £42.50 from London.

Although that looks likely to be a price to set the pace, it is one which will have travel agents' heads nodding wisely. Three years ago a similar winter weekend package would have cost £19. The difference represents the one small cloud which the Channel Islands see in an otherwise sunny future.

Faced with a certain amount of public resistance against travelling by sea for a two or three-day break and restrictions on charter flights from Britain, the islands rely heavily on the airlines in making up these off-peak package deals. The airlines' share represents more than half of the £42.50 price quoted above.

Gourmets on French leave

by Joyce Rackham

"Jersey—le bonheur français" ran the headlines on a recent French magazine feature, whose writer extolled the island's "marvellous lobster" relished the traditional pubs, and sipped its malt whiskies and local brews. A writer in *Le Monde*, listing a fair selection of restaurants and lapping up the conger eel soup, even praised an English cheese (white Stilton) and admitted to tasting Dubonnet for the first time in Jersey. Eccentricities like mince-covered bar stools, or a ritual evening toast to the Emperor Franz Joseph in the bar of that name, clearly delighted him.

Mr. Bill Nunn, Jersey's marketing consultant in London, says: "Record numbers of French tourists, 60 day trips and on holiday, visited the island last year." Their influence on local gastronomy is considerable. "Restaurateurs there agree. Mr. Jack Kirkpatrick, who owns The Moorings, a waterfront hotel-restaurant in the old harbour of Gorey, is a favourite among French yachtsmen, observed: "The French go mad about our shellfish: they eat mountains of it." He has his own lobster tanks. He also has an exceptional wine list, with a cellar of about 10,000 bottles, lovingly cared for by his Italian manager, Signor Mirto Sappe, himself a wine shipper. Their own importation of Muscadet keeps the

French happy, as do their chateau-bottled clarets; and there are even three fine Piedmontese wines of note to connoisseurs.

Among the leading suppliers to hotels and restaurants is the Le Riche group, which owns supermarkets and has been a wine shipper for more than 150 years. The group's executive director, Mr. G. A. Hibbard, commented: "From our sales we know there are plenty of gourmets among Jersey residents. They are great travellers, and those retired from many parts of the world are used to cosmopolitan eating." This is a far cry from the idea generally held by those who have never been there—that Jersey is a "chips with everything" place and simply a paradise for duty-free drinking.

With beer from 15p a pint, and the average price of a measure of spirits (larger than in Britain) at about 17p, the pubs are always crowded with tourists, who also appreciate the more liberal licensing hours. Local breweries, in Jersey and Guernsey, have to import all their raw materials. Beers in Jersey are stronger than in Britain and Mr. Philip McElwaine, head brewer of the largest concern, the Ann Street brewery in St. Helier, says the draught special is sometimes too much for tourists with weak heads.

Most pubs provide well chosen, reasonably priced snacks and on a damp, misty day last month, we stopped for lunch at Les Fontaines, a fine old country pub with a welcoming open fire and superb fifteenth-century beams. We tasted the savoury Jersey bean pot (mixed beans marinated in pork juices) and were amused to see toasted sandwiches filled with beef stroganoff and chicken supreme.

Regrettably they had no wine by the glass. Pubs generally are not wine conscious, and, so far, Jersey has only one wine bar, an old-established cosy place run by Le Masurier in Bath Street, St. Helier.

It is a pity that some of the loveliest country pubs are driving out potential customers by relentless piped music or juke boxes playing raucous pop, and that the ancient character of many town pubs has been emasculated by tasteless modernization. Local businessmen, often offering good advice on where to eat without spending too much, recommending the Grill Room at the Grand Hotel for its table-d'ôte menu and in the Hotel de la Plage as well as the Hotel La Place, near the airport.

Jersey has an annual gastronomic festival every spring, and this year it will be made much more memorable when the island's first vineyard, now yielding its first vintage, puts its wine on the market.

Mr. Robert Blaney, whose family used to own a century-old wine business in Newcastle upon Tyne, moved to Jersey when the firm was sold in 1968. He and his wife Ann now have more than five acres of immaculately tended vines around their old farmhouse at St. Mary's. They have planted German vines: Muller-Thurgau, "for quality", Huxelrebe "for its rich 'nose'" and Reichensteiner "for the necessary sugar", and they watched anxiously as we took our first sip of the 1975 wine.

It is pale greeny-gold in colour, with a delicate flowery nose and much drier than most English vineyard wines, which need to have more sugar added because they are cultivated with less sunshine. The Blaneys invited German oenologists over recently to test their product and were delighted to be told: "With a nose like this, your wine is going to be good." They expect to have 50 m 60 dozen to sell this year under the label Clos de la Mare, the name of the first vineyard planted.

International influence on hotel and restaurant ownership in Jersey makes it possible to sample a variety of cooking, although bigger places tend to have classic menus. A few of the notable restaurants are the Dolphin in Gorey, whose young Jersey-born chef makes fine sauces and cooks fish beautifully; it has a good wine list. The Beach has a shorter, more adventurous menu, changed weekly. There may be terrace barbecues in the summer.

At Corbiere, the Sea Crest Hotel, a favourite with the French, is owned by Signor Victor Cornaglia from Piedmont, and his English wife. The cooking is excellent with well chosen wines.

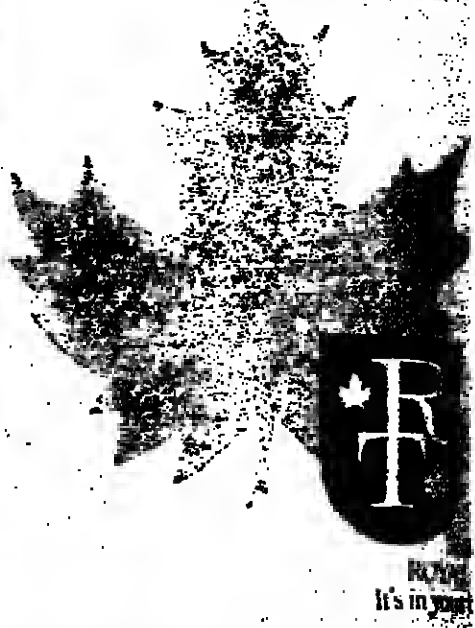
La Campanina in St. Helier recently received the only distinction given to a Jersey restaurant by the *Good Food Guide*. The owner, Signor Tino Rossi, comes from Friuli and the elegant Pinot Bianco from there is his house wine. Many of the younger local people like the reasonably priced Bistrot Borsellino in St. Helier, or the Bistrot Paul by the sea at Beaumont. We ate a superb creamy-textured Jersey plaice, with a clean and cool Muscadet at the Old Court House Inn at St. Aubin, which is run by three young people.

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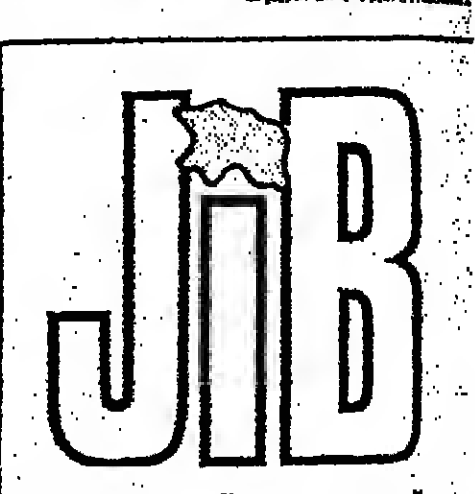
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50 كذا العمل

er a year since *The* carried a leading article on the general political situation in France. It says a failing on our does also reflect the there have been few major events to t. While the other- ies behind France— rish and Italy—have ousured the interest of the outside world, e the election of M

the general election, there would almost certainly be a left-wing majority in parliament, since "left-wing" candidates between them won 56.5 per cent of the votes. The three parties which in 1972 signed the joint programme of the left between them won 51.7 per cent. Moreover, M Mitterrand's Socialist Party for the first time becomes clearly the most popular, with 26.5 per cent, while the Communists mark time at 22.8 per cent and the Gaullists trail far behind at 10.6.

persuasive on economic while the President's role as a successful foreign minister is fading—and a further blow if the franc be devalued in the months, as many experts expect.

Finally the recent t the Communist Party to self a more credible liberal may paradoxically have more benefit to its Socialist than to itself, since Socialist voters may not

aining to the presi-
very least since the
Chirac as secretary
the Gaullist party
et.
ed, however, the
was given to half the
torate to pronounce
seen as a mid-term
strictly speaking M
training is far from half
his term, which has
ve years left to run.
uch constitution, as
General de Gaulle's
1962, is so ambivalent
source of executive
both presidential and
elections appear
to incorporate a change
in the government's
and elections are due
two years' time. The
so narrowly failed
François Mitterrand
in 1974 will, if the
nd, have the chance
elect a parliamentary
1978, in which case
E'staing would have
point a government
in that majority
indicating much of the
w en crisis, or face a
njoys, or resign.
tly of Sunday's vote
nificantly reproduced in

The Government did its best,
as usually happens, to play down
the political significance of these
elections—and it is true that
the office of *conseiller général*
confers even less power in France
than does that of *counseil-
councillor* in Britain. Yet the
turn-out of 65.4 per cent would
scarcely be unthinkable in a
British general election, and is
certainly the highest in French
cantonal elections since 1958.
There can be little doubt that
the voters responded to the
deliberately political campaign
which M Mitterrand and his party
conducted.

The result must thus be seen
as reflecting at least a certain
disaffection with M Giscard
d'E'staing's piecemeal and largely
cosmetic reforms, perhaps
especially among the large
number of first-time voters.
Voting age has been lowered to
eighteen since the presidential
election.) It certainly reflects
anxiety about an economy which
has one million unemployed and
an inflation rate, already uncom-
fortably higher than that of West
Germany, which accelerated
alarmingly in the first month of
this year. M Mitterrand now has
better economic advisers than he
used to and is undoubtedly more

Communist alliance le
There could well be a
effect as the Socialist
greater strength make
less vulnerable to man-
oeuvr in government, by
munist coalition partner.
President's chances of
his majority leftwards
less and less hopeful.

Much depends, then,
the continued cohesion
Socialist-Communist all-
first important test w
with the second half
cantonal elections next
If the Socialist voters
transfer their votes to
nist candidates where
ahead on the first ball-
fulness of the whole
ment from the Commu-
of view will be called
tion. A second test will
be the June 1981 elec-
important: municipal
where in principle the
are committed for the
to running joint lists
Communists through-
country. This commit-
not be carried out with-
deal of anguish, since
Socialist mayors from
Defferra downwards ha-
past owed their electio-
to a strenuous anti-commu-

to the Criminal Justice Committee on the National Civil Liberties protest, other things that consent should be courteous and that it be the same for homosexuals. The principles on which these objections are based are wrong should restrict behaviour only "where it parries to a sexual or consensual act or behaviour results in actual suffering or to other people." However, "quite so" it is. There is nothing it needs to be taken into account that whatever persons may indicate they may indicate that this law is often disapproval. Where concerned, that where changes that are discriminatory or common is a point beyond cannot and should be paternalistic in morals. With adolescent. Their values are naturally more open to influence. It is true that the influence that matters particularly is that of their own age group. But the attitude of adult society is of some consequence as well. One should think very carefully before making a change in the law that would be interpreted as conferring the mark of approval, on conduct that one would not wish to encourage.

But even if one leaves that consideration aside, could the age of consent for heterosexual and homosexual acts be reduced without infringing the second of the NCC's own principles? Would this not remove or reduce the restrictions on sexual behaviour that results in demonstrable suffering or offence to other people? The reply answers that it would make mature adults these; that many young people indulge in heterosexual acts without demonstrable suffering, and that if they are of homosexual inclination there is nothing the law can do about it.

Once again this is a bit too simple. There can be a world of difference between physical and emotional maturity. The evidence that children mature earlier physically is beyond dispute, but there is also a

age of evidence, the emotional development keep pace with this early advance. It therefore all the more important social values and should so far as possible adolescents from the damage to which they are more likely to be subjected in their earlier physical development. The disparity is dangerous.

Nor should one accept readily the assumption that homosexuality is simply a disorder, determined by the brain, in the case of adult homosexuals it is no doubt a condition in the great majority is not subject to social is. But the physical thing like the same adolescents. There may be a number of them whose inclinations are not firmly in a particular direction and need to be protected, as far as possible, from the sex of adults. The law is changed in these respects if an overwhelming doing so is made out, not yet been presented.

ists are well served by their own spontaneous solitude, more likely to be enhanced by Van stand it; Rodin Thorwaldsen's life's irrecoverably chilled (and actually) that he built. A smell of idolatry is almost never in such places, who have an egotism communicates itself as able to put them as prophets rather than are likely to the exposure. It is of personality that merit. Constable is too far away from and Turner. Turner may get along well himself. He thought left his paintings on condition that a he built especially

Now we are likely to see whether he can. Yesterday's decision to press on with plans to turn the old Royal Academy rooms in Somerset House into a Turner gallery is a consequence of the great success of the 1974 bicentenary exhibition. Indigently enormous as it was, it gave a powerful impression of the momentum behind his work. Paintings from different periods, even the bad ones, were shown; one another. Turner appeared as a type of the romantic artist whose works become documents recording a struggle rather than self-contained achievements. As much as a major artist ever can, he looks inwards, away from his contemporaries and successors. The public reaction to all this may prove to have been only a temporary enthusiasm (though the less well-trumpeted exhibition of watercolours at the British Museum continues to attract large crowds until it closes next year). The availability of Somerset House just now creates

an opportunity to see the egotistical adhimme it is to see whether the public is to respond.

There is bound to be an amount of manoeuvre in the question of who should what Turner was proud his legacy to the nation by restricting the dissemination of his work limited his reputation and influence outside his own country. Turner has always possessed numbers than they could ever. But with three major galleries London showing his work in competition for the most paintings is inevitable must be no wholesale view of masterpieces from rival Claude at the National Gallery, Klokoschka at the Tate. Turner must be allowed galleries (perhaps sharing the Tate), but it should be possible to illustrate the Turner's art mainly for many fine paintings well-known.

First, the rate of new house building must be increased, and local councils and housing associations must be given more resources for acquiring homes from private landlords and improving them to a decent standard.

from the housing result of the latest proceed, since the Act the protection provided approximately 600,000 occupants residing from slums, such a claim is plausible.

of families coming a court order, notice business problem was the implementation of

housing authorities to provide accommodation with effective default powers.

Finally, measures can be introduced that bring empty homes into use.

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS HOLMES, Deputy Director
—Housing, Shelter
St. Pancras, WC2.
March 2.

there are exceptions, w example the vendor was purchaser of a property n estate.

What Mr Young appears loo is that many of the chavans have learnt veyancing in solicitors' then have decided to set up own. Some indeed are F the Institute of Legal who would no longer be

From S.F.L. N. Graham,
Sir, I refer to your newspaper's letter in
March 2. I suggest that your corres-
pondent who Mr Young takes to
task—was more accurate than Mr
Young.

From Mr H. H. McCleery
Sir, Historians will be puzzled by the
wordship of "Democracy" in the 20th
Century. "Majority rule" or "one
man one vote" is certainly not
producing freedom or
"democracy" in the new states that
have proliferated in Africa since the
last war. Of these, more than half
now enjoy military government, and
the rest are dictatorships of one sort
or another.

Smith been less honest he would
have agreed to everything and then
like several other present rulers in
Africa, changed the constitution on
announcing independence. He deserves
our sympathy and respect.
Yours sincerely,
HUGH MCCLEERY,
Whitwell Way,
Coton,
Cambridgeshire.
March 1960.

I returned yesterday from a short - visit to East Africa - a country I loved and served as an administrative officer as well as 20 years' colonial days. Kenya seems the most progressive but also the most corrupt. Tanzania is poor and tatty, but at least its leader sets his face against corruption. Uganda, with its gallant and scholarly leader is a bad joke, and the plight of its native citizens very grim indeed. In all these countries people are afraid to discuss politics in public; all three would collapse tomorrow were the present massive doses of foreign aid withheld.

I assure you Sir, that as we who have been brought up to regard Africans towards self-government I have always taken their side where possible. But neither you, nor either aide in Parliament, can see that Mr Smith has a case. How can he, elected by a majority of 100,000, on principles however weighted, fail to support his side against the rest? And can't you see that, surrounded as he is by such chaos, "majority rule" does not appear to be the universal panacea for politicians. A little or no experience of Africa, think it is?

From Professor John Hutchinson

Sir, The objective in Rhodesia is the creation of a free society in which all of its races will defend. There are three prime requirements: the protection of Rhodesia's borders against aggression; a constitutional guarantee of white rights in a transfer of power; and an allied decision to protect the future of Rhodesia against Communist colonization.

In the absence of a swift and ratifiable agreement, the borders can be protected only by a return of Her Majesty's Government in force and sovereignty sufficient to negotiate a settlement with the forces in Salisbury or Her Majesty's Government should be in any doubt about that.

White rights can be sufficiently guaranteed as Harold Wilson has said they must be by political counterpoise represented in the proposal for a bi-racialist Constitutional Guard I presented in your columns on February 3 last. Rhodesia is also the place where the white South can call the rest to the re-colonization of Africa. If

In his *Approach to Self-Government*, Sir Ivor Jennings wrote that "democracy can only work when the majority can take a reasoned decision on known facts". Can anyone believe such a state exists in Rhodesia? A Congo or an Angola will help none but the Communists. I would go further than Sir Ivor, and say that "majority rule" rarely works in a mixed community, *ex Ulster*. One may ask why Westminster believes in "power-sharing" in Ulster, but "majority rule" in Rhodesia? For years all Sir, and I, have said "no" to this "holier than thou" attitude towards Mr Smith. The fault is ours. We gave Southern Rhodesia internal self-government in 1923, and then conveniently forgot about "native interests" for 40 years. Had Mr

they do not, the knock will soon be heard on other doors.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HUTCHINSON,
 Professor of Industrial Relations,
 University of California,
 Los Angeles.
 March 4.

From Mr Clifford Jeans
 Sir, Surely Solzhenitsyn was right and we have now reached a new low, when our Government gives aid to others in order that they may attack and kill our own people in Rhodesia.

Yours faithfully,
 C. JEANS,
 20, Parkfield Road,
 Ickenham, Uxbridge,
 Middlesex.

From Mrs Ann Lazley

Sir, The article "Poverty dated from the Vicarage" (March 5), states that the only reason why the poor are poor, and that the trend continues. The conclusion is that this trend gives them the opportunity to witness to simpler and more basic joys than amassing possessions, and that accepting the call to follow them closer to the heart of Jesus.

oil; the occasional bottle of sherry, or ration of wine, are usually enjoyed by the caterer and never abroad; outside entertainment is a rare treat; help has to be accepted with grace; without which my husband's life would be complicated and mine inaccessible. is maintained with difficulty; a larger proportion of our income than would otherwise be desirable is spent on provisions

I consider that this conclusion lets the Christian laity off the hook. I know that poverty and wealth are only relative, and that people experience different needs, but mine is the only clergy who has to do with children to whom this last winter has brought increasing anxiety and discomfort. In our house, built for the days of cheap coal, we have woken cold in bedrooms with temperatures in the very low 60's. We have bad bronchitis and chilblains, and I have sailed at the "Save It" campaign—the thermostat for the partial central heating is set at 60° F. In the dining room it is turned off for the sake of the electric bill, but never really hot, and lighting is limited.

Long ago we accepted, and try to use creatively, the facts of our situation: we eat a diet of the "cheap" protein, the simplest fruits and vegetables, with few non-essentials and hardly any waste; the

Dear Professor C. L. R. James:

Sir, There is some force in the arguments of your correspondent Professor Peace (March 5), who replaces Solzhenitsyn in the Russian edition of "The Gulag Archipelago". There is no doubt many things which Solzhenitsyn misunderstands and underrates in the West. Yet this does not mean that nothing which he says about the West should be taken as true or that it may not be good for us to see ourselves as others see us.

Your correspondent the Rev Paul Oestreicher (March 5) is right, as a matter of principle, in his criticism of the British section of Amnesty International, to object to oppression in South Africa, Chile, Iran and Brazil as well as in the Soviet Union. Yet there is a danger to the other four, of which governments, whose first duty is to protect their own citizens, must take account: the Soviet, Chinese, East German and Soviet Union, which only one state

syn wars us of that power, and other nations must submit to the moral nausea of those who wield it, it is possible that he knows what he is talking about. Let Professor Peace call these warnings "apocalyptic" if he wishes, but his accusation that they threaten us with the application of brute force, rather than intelligence, to world affairs" is simple nonsense.

Mr Oestreicher rightly says that "the light and darkness cur across international frontiers". In all these great political conflicts to history, in war and in peace, good men and women with noble aims have been involved on both sides. One does not have to be a Communist or a "communist" to be wicked, in order to recognize that Soviet imperialism, many of whose servants are admirable people in a real and growing measure to us all.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH SETON-WATSON,
8 Buryleigh Road, SW19,
March 7.

Sir, I trust you will be kind enough to publish this letter, in regard to your article in the March 1 issue of *The Times* under the provocative title: "French plan rebanitory action against British students over fees increase."

The word "retaliatory" is much too war-like to be readily used in academic style. It was, however, even implied in the course of the discussion that took place between the Office des Universités and their British friends over the past two years. The word "retaliatory" was neither used nor implied by Mr. Poujol in his talk with a group of French correspondents. The issue of the fees levied on a market in international policy was not raised by Mr. Poujol. There is absolutely no connexion between that issue and the move of French Universities towards a new system of foreign student pre-registration and a tighter control over their proficiency in the French language.

When he mentioned the unbalance of Franco-British student exchanges, Mr. Poujol did not fail to observe that it was compensated to a large extent by the great num-

ber of British students in France, nature permitting to bypass the stumbling block created by our national differences in approaching the problem of financing students abroad.

Efforts will not be spared from both sides to increase the total volume of Franco-British student exchanges, since they only concern a ridiculously low percentage of the total student population in Britain as in France. Our real problem consists in making international experience an integral part of higher education for every student, whether British, French, and, generally, European.

Yours sincerely,
M. MAX DELAQUOIS, Le Directeur,
Office National des Universités,
e/ Ecoles Françaises,
96, Boulevard Raspail,
75272 Paris.

March 5.

From the President of the Guild of British Newspaper Editors

Sir, It is ironic that the Barnsley branch of the National Union of Journalists should seek to "black" four members of the rival Institute of Journalists almost on the eve of

and, therefore, the wider public interest in the unrestricted flow of information.

Yours etc.

T. H. COOKE,
Whitefriars House,
Carmelite Street, EC4.
March 9.

the passing into law of the Government's Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Bill. Such action, which has received the blessing of the NUJ's national executive, is an example and a warning of what is likely to happen under the closed shop provisions of the Bill.

In Barsley, one of the institute members, who has been denied information from a number of public bodies, is a most experienced reporter, a man who has covered industrial and municipal affairs for many years, and whose work is recognized as of high quality. The union's action has resulted in the public of Barsley being denied information from this man on subjects of the most important nature.

It is not surprising that the Minister of Employment has asked the union to think again, and has pointed out that the action might have serious implications, not least either the Barsley branch or the NUJ executive has so far appreciated.

The Guild of British Newspaper Editors has other examples of this kind which will be placed before the House tomorrow. The first is a letter from its mouth, but the Barstole case encapsulates the dangers inherent in the Bill, dangers to which the Guild has repeatedly drawn attention during its passage through Parliament.

A free press is founded, among other things, upon the public's right to information and, I would add, to information provided without restriction and with a much professional skill as an editor and his staff can command. Each one of your readers that has been trampled underfoot in Barnsley, to how many more towns and cities will the public be denied its right to the free service of unrestricted information once the Bill becomes law?

The Bill does not exclude journalists and editors from its closed shop provisions. The so-called safeguard is to be a voluntary press charter. The guild remains convinced that such a charter will be useless against abuse of the Bill's provisions from any quarter—be it union, proprietorial, political or commercial. Already the guild, in its constitution and its statement of principles, is committed to defending an editor's independence from improper pressures. In its present form the Bill is bound to intensify some of the least of those pressures, and the only effective deterrent must have the force of law. In today's climate nothing less can safeguard editorial independence.

Foot into his outburst and I derived no satisfaction from the increasing volume of evidence that my forebodings and warnings were, alas, all too justified.

I hope that when the dust settles Mr Foot will view his tirade with some compunction and will have an opportunity of contrasting it with my own conduct of this debate. Even I can at least hope that he will recognize that no amount of invective and abuse will prevent me from expressing views that I hold on matters concerning the public welfare.

Yours faithfully,
GOODMAN,
4 Little Essex Street,
Strand, WC2.

From Mr G. W. Bancroft and others
Sir, Professor Hayek's essay on *Choice in Currency* (published last month by the Institute of Economic Affairs) is an important departure in the debate on monetary policy. Professor Hayek emphasizes the critical distinction: governments may and do issue money—but they need not forbid their citizens the use of other currencies, whether issued by other central banks, or other agencies. Indeed, this principle could be extended to permit contracts and transactions to be made in terms of any currency accepted by all the parties concerned. Democratic governments would be thus widening the alternatives given to their citizens.

From Mr Nicholas Hinton
Sir, The views of the Association of Magisterial Officers are reported prominently in *The Times* yesterday (March 8). I am dismayed, not so much by their demands for a system of "Russian-type" labour camps" and the like which defies all we know about human behaviour in institutions, but by the totally irresponsible accusations made of probation officers, social workers and the naive generalization about the police.

The association represents 3,300 court staff who with others are responsible for the administration of justice. What sort of justice can we expect if the members of the association are so ready to send the profession into

We believe there is a strong case for exploring the possibilities for opening up a choice in the field of mooney. We commend the setting up of a study group to this end, to examine, initially, the consequences of failed attempts to change and modify the laws relating to legal tender.

Yours faithfully,
G. N. BANCROFT,
JOHN CHOWN,
PETER CLARKE,
ANTHONY FLEW,
W. J. GIBBS,
T. W. HUTCHISON,
GRAHAM RUTTON,
20 Clarendon Street, SW1,
Murch.

PETER LILLEY,
ROBERT MILLER,
R. M. MYDDELTON,
SUDHAR. R. SHENOY,
VIVS TALEN,
JACK WISEMAN.

es identifying with "the anarchic exponents of the alternative society", or is pressing for prisons to be made "sufficiently nasty" to justify is in grave danger if we allow the attitude of the police, the magistrates, probation officers, court staff, social workers, judges and others involved in criminal justice and the treatment of offenders to become polarized between those taking a hard line and those taking a soft line irrespective of the circumstances of any individual defendant.

The problems presented by the considerable increase in crime can

From Dr R. F. Seton

Sir, The Times Diary of March 9, over the signature of PHS, contained a thoroughly misleading allegation that I was a result of my discussion to the emoluments of the Warden in the governing body of Nuffield College. The proposal to increase the Warden's expenses and entertainment allowance—last made in 1965 and acknowledged to be out of date as well as far below that of other heads of houses—was part of a package deal involving a simultaneous reduction in his basic stipend, whose total effect would have been to reduce total earnings. The questions raised in the governing body concerned the effects of the package on the Warden's personal economic liability, whose relevance to the Government's economic policy as stated in the White Paper is a matter for legitimate debate but not a foregone conclusion. At no point was there an intention to frustrate that policy—least of all by the Chairman, Chester, who was excluded from all committee and discussions leading up to the proposal.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS HINTON, Director,
National Association for the Care
and Resentlement of Offenders,
12 Kensington Park Road, SE11.
March 8.

Closure of Hafof Meurig

From the Chairman of the National Association of Probation Officers

Sir, The plea by Lord Hunt and others (February 26) for the reconsideration of priorities in the allocation of funds for activities such as those to be lost with the closure of Hafof Meurig, will find an echo in this country. The very organization concerned with more than a pretence of progress.

Of what use is legislation such as the Children and Young Persons Act of 1969 or the institution of intermediate treatment if there is little more than promise and economic cutbacks make nonsense of performance.

The escalating cost of running

It is right that our policy on stipends should stand comparison with those sections of the economy which are most assiduous in their implementation of Government policy, and for this reason we welcome the informed opinion of governing body members who wish to act as guardians of that policy. It is regrettable, however, that a newspaper of your standing should indulge in potentially damaging allegations based on hearsay and gossip without adequately checking the facts.

Yours sincerely,
DR F. SETON, Senior Fellow,
Nuffield College,
Oxford.

March 9.

From Mr Nicholas Hinton
Sir. The views of the Association of Magisterial Officers are reported prominently in *The Times* today (March 8). I am disturbed, not so much by their demands for a system of "Russian-type labour camps" and the like which defy all we know about human behaviour in institutions, but by the totally irresponsible accusations made of probation officers, social workers and the naive generalization about the police.

The association represents 3,300 court staff who with others are responsible for the administration of justice. What sort of justice can we expect when this association is so vocal in the protest against the police identifying with "the anarchic exponents of the alternative society", or is pressing for prisoners to be made "sufficiently nasty" if justice is in grave danger if we do not include the police in the magistrature's probation officers' courts' staff, social workers, judges and others involved in criminal justice and the treatment of offenders to become polarized between those taking a hard line and those taking a soft line irrespective of the circumstances of any individual defendant.

from the Chairman of the National Association of Probation Officers Sir, The plea by Lord Hums and others (February.26) for the reconsideration of priorities in the allocation of funds for activities such as those to be lost with the closure of Hafod Meurig, will find an echo in this association and in every organization concerned with more than a pretence of progress.

Of what use is legislation such as the Children and Young Persons Act of 1969 or the initiation of intermediate treatment if there is little more than promise and economic cutbacks make nonsense of performance.

The escalating cost of crime is likely to outweigh any of the more hopeful initiatives on its prevention and at a time when the more traditional forms of retribution are not cost effective one wonders why we cannot get our priorities right. Is it prejudice or mismanagement of the economy?

Perhaps we should recommend the temporary use of Hafod Meurig as an outdoor health centre for tired economic advisers.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH HOWE, Chairman,
National Association of Probation Officers,
1st Floor, Ambassador House,
Bristolport Road,
Thornton Heath, Surrey.
February 26.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

The case for
reforming
company taxation,
page 19

Intervention by bank stems downward slide of the pound

Vestlake
see days of severe
on the world's
markets, sterling
much calmer
today. The pound's
t the dollar was
10 points when
trading finished. But
it \$1.9415 was the
ing level yet seen.
the pound's
valuation against
currencies, from the
base date, worsened
to a record 33.2 per
cent with 33.1 per
cent yesterday night.
k of England was
nt to have provided
al support for the
on a much smaller
the \$100m to \$150m
in the previous day.
k seems to have
provide just suffi-
r to convince the
change market that
all in the pound
r would be
The signal was
and conditions
appreciably.
log also helped
ore two-way market,
ported. However,
still very nervous
the pound has
than \$1 United
s in three working
dealers were suggest-
further decline was
alers, however, noted
of the difference
he inflation rate in
ad the international
is been discounted for
ooms by sterling's
ak European current-
also steadier yester-
French franc was

ria switches reserves

in Adnan Ciro, a
ral bank governor,
country's foreign ex-
res, formerly held
terling, have been
I into various cur-
encies, Legation
t quoted the bank
saying the switch
ct the reserves from

eed seeks ver plan

March 9
heed Aircraft Cor-
now trying to get
banks to agree to
tension of the final
opleting the second
e company's highly
and vitally impor-
al restructuring
was announced last
the company had
omplete it months
ssive delays have
largely by diffi-
e Securities and Ex-
mission. The final
ended some months
15.
needs approval by
shareholders and
has already been
ay shareholders'
times.
However, Lockheed
boped its diffi-
SEC, which deals
th the negotiating
decree after invest-
Lockheed's
national foreign
ould be resolved
future.

BRITISH AMERICAN AND GENERAL TRUST LIMITED

from the Statement by the Chairman, Mr. W. H.
In the Report and Accounts for the year ended
December, 1975.

dividend for the year 1.25p net (7.89% gross)
pared with the equivalent of 1.20p (7.16%) paid
4.

ased investment in leading U.K. equities with an
ave average yield should have even greater impact
ncome of the current year.

assets attributable to Ordinary Stockholders
ased by 93%.

1st December 1975 the proportion of Invested funds
he U.K. was 85.4% (mainly in equities), in North
merica 27.2%, and in other overseas areas 7.4%.

	1975	1974
AVAILABLE FOR DIVIDEND (Net)	£804,877	£814,955
FOR ORDINARY STOCK ed during 1975 by the of loan stock)	1.25p	1.37p
FUNDS		
cluding net current assets	£221,373,000	£12,844,000
able to Ordinary Stock	£18,875,000	£9,557,000
et value per Unit of 25p	40½p	27½p

Managers—Kleinwort, Benson Limited
General Meeting—20 Fenchurch Street, London, E.C3.
Thursday, 1st April, 1976 at 12.45 p.m.

Life office challenges aim of Equity Bank

By Anthony Rowley

Opposition among financial
institutions towards the pro-
posed Equity Bank began to
emerge openly yesterday, when
Mr. Tom Risk, chairman of
Standard Life Assurance

stated that the need for the
bank had been inadequately
researched.

"We think that the scope
for investigation into the need
for this additional source of
capital could be widened",
said Mr. Risk, who is also a
director of the Bank of Eng-
land.

Mr. David Donald, general
manager of Standard Life
said: "We had hoped that
manufacturing industry would
be asked to say how it would
use the funds, and that trade
unions would be asked how
they viewed the prospect of
reduced employment flowing
from increased investment".

It is clear now that the origi-
nal proposal produced by the
Equity Bank working party
have been referred back for a
major review, although, no
comment was available from
the working party last night on
whether this review will
embrace points such as those
raised by Standard Life.

Yesterday's comments by Mr.
Risk and Mr. Donald represent
the first open criticism from a
financial institution of the
scheme first mooted last
autumn for providing United
Kingdom manufacturing in-
dustry with equity capital
where it is unavailable from
traditional sources, although it
was clear early on that some
Scottish investment institutions
were unhappy about the idea.

The criticisms are important as
Standard Life, one of the lead-
ing United Kingdom mutual
life assurance companies, has
been asked to subscribe
towards the capital of the
Equity Bank.

It is understood that the British
life offices as a body have
been asked to contribute £17m
towards the initial £50m paid-
up capital of Equity Invest-
ments Limited, and that Stand-
ard Life has been asked to
provide £2m of this sum.

The Edinburgh-based group
has, however, declined its por-
tion for the Equity Bank as
originally envisaged, and is
reserving its judgment until it
sees the final proposals from
the working party. Other Scot-
tish mutual life offices, how-
ever, have indicated that a
measure of calm had re-
turned to foreign exchange
markets after sterling's sharp
decline on Friday and Monday.

A further snag which came
to light yesterday centres on
the fact that, under the
recently introduced Inter-
national Development Depart-
ment of Trade regulations on
the valuation of insurance
companies assets, unquoted in-
vestments such as those in the
Equity Bank would have nil
value for solvency purposes.

"This could add to companies'
problems at times when, as in
1974, the solvency margin is
narrowed by a general fall in
the market value of assets, and
for this reason the insurance
companies are reluctant to
take ineligible assets onto their
books. Representations to Mr.
Shore, the Secretary of State
for Trade on this score pro-
duced no concessions, however.

Mr. Risk makes an oblique
reference to the Equity Bank
in his annual report for 1975,
published today. The problems
of inadequate industrial invest-
ment will not be solved by
" tinkering with symptoms or
setting up any elaborate
organization which will not in
itself tap any new source of
funds for equity investment",
he says.

There has been much, and
largely ill-informed, criticism
in recent months that the invest-
ing institutions have not adequately
provided finance for industry",
he continues. "I am not per-
suaded that this claim has any
foundation in fact. It is true
that industry has invested less
than might be thought healthy,
but this is a direct consequence
of a series of factors beyond
the control of industry or in-
deed of the investing institu-
tions."

Business Diary, page 19
Financial news, page 20

Tea nations open discussions on stabilization pact

By Patricia Tisdall

Plans to ensure the future
stabilization of tea prices and
supply were discussed at a meet-
ing between Commonwealth pro-
ducing countries and the con-
suming nations in London yester-
day.

The talks, which continue to-
day and are the first of their
kind, follow general commodity
stabilization proposals made by
Mr. Wilson, the Prime Minister,
at the Commonwealth Confer-
ence in Jamaica last spring.

Property group shares suspended

By John Brennan

Shares of the Amalgamated
Investment & Property, the
£210m property development
group, have been suspended
pending clarification of the
company's financial position".

In an unexpected announce-
ment made just after midday
yesterday, AIP called for a
halt to trading in its
ordinary shares, loan stocks
and warrants. Shares through-
out the property sector
weakened as the stock market
awaited a promised statement
on the reasons for the suspen-
sion.

But after a directors' meet-
ing, the company merely issued
a statement confirming that the
suspension had been called for
pending discussions on funding
arrangements for the group,
which has £124m of borrowings.
A further announcement is ex-
pected today.

AIP, which under the
management of the late Mr.
Gabriel Harrison in the 1960s
and early 1970s, was rated

among the property sector's
glamour stocks, has recently
been struggling with an increas-
ing revenue deficit.

In 1975 the group reported a
pre-tax loss of £12m, but this
figure fails to take account of
development outgoings charged
directly to capital costs, which
brings the overall loss to more
than £10m.

Despite property sales which
have brought in around £35m
since last March, AIP has had
to lean heavily upon the sup-
port of its bankers.

In its last accounts, when
directors were unable to give
a firm opinion as to the true
value of the group's £209m
property portfolio, the com-
pany's auditors noted that the
figures had been prepared "on
a going concern basis on the
assumption of continued sup-
port from the group's bankers
and other financial institu-
tions".

Mr. Peter Olsberg, AIP's
chairman, was unavailable for
comment on the situation last

night, but Lazards, the group's
merchant banker, confirmed that
yesterday's suspension and
directors' meeting were
decided upon to give time to
deal with arrangements to
guarantee on-going finance for
the group.

Apart from funds to complete
its remaining developments,
AIP still has to carry the costs
of a number of recently com-
pleted but as yet unlet schemes,
including the 166,000 sq ft
Amalgamated House in Trinity
Square, London. It is under-
stood that existing arrange-
ments for bank finance, notably
from Barclay Bank, expire at
the end of this month.

AIP's current problems may
have been exacerbated by the
recent fall in the value of ster-
ling because its £20m "Pacific
Bureaux" development project
in Paris, which has run far over
its original expected costs, has
been financed locally through a
consortium of French banks.

News of the suspension, which
came through to the stock mar-

ket at 1.30 pm yesterday,
brought crowds of brokers mil-
ling around the property
dealers' pitches.

Fears of a harder line by the
clearing banks, now supporting
cash-starved property develop-
ment companies, sent shares in
the sector tumbling, but much
of the earlier losses were made
up before the market closed as
dealers came around to the view
that the suspension might only
be temporary.

Dealings in AIP's shares were
suspended at 16½p, 1p down on
their overnight price, despite a
surprising amount of activity
in the option market earlier in
the day, when a substantial
amount of speculative money
went into "call" options.

Toward the end of the day
1p lower at 16½p, British Land
shed 1p to 34p and Capital &
Counties ended 1p lower at
15½p. Shares of the sector con-
tinued to slide in after-hours
dealings, particularly when
AIP's promised statement failed
to materialize.

Montedison chain store chief facing bribe charge

From John Earle

Rome, March 9
Italy's business scandals have
spilled over into the private
sector with the arrest on a
corruption charge of Signor
Gino Sferza, chairman of
Standa, the big chain stores
subsidiary of the Montedison
group.

The arrest warrant was issued
by a magistrate investigating
allegations that sums of money
were paid to obtain permits to
open supermarkets in the Rome
area.

The Montedison parent, in a
statement, pointed out that
Signor Sferza reported volun-
tarily to the carabinieri at
Spoleto after bearing of the
warrant. It has since asked him
to withdraw his resignation.

This contrasted with the con-
duct of Signor Camillo
Crociari, former chairman of
Finmeccanica, the engineering
holding company of the state-
owned IRI group, who fled
abroad last month when sought
on a corruption charge in con-
nection with the Lockheed
bribe scandal.

In another case affecting a
perastatal corporation and an
American multinational, the
Rome public prosecutor has an-
nounced that he is investigating
the possibility of charging
Signor Franco Grassini,
director-general of the state
rescue agency GEPI.

He is also investigating
Signor Francesco Fabbrì, Chris-
tian Democrat under-secretary
(deputy minister) at the
Treasury, and Signor Pasquale
Chiomenti, a leading Rome
lawyer.

The case concerns the exact
sum, running into several mil-
lion dollars, which the United
States garment manufacturer
Genesco paid for its loss-making
San Remo subsidiary, near
Trieste, to be taken over by
GEPI in 1974.

Signor Fabbrì has announced
he will resign from the govern-
ment to answer the charges.

Depressed demand for bank loans persists

There are still no indications
that industry is turning to the
banks to finance any higher
levels of business activity.
Figures from the clearing banks
for the month to February 18
show a continuing downturn
in the demand for loans.

The fall in advances to the
private sector by the London
Clearers was £99m during the
month. Because the changed
pattern of tax payments means
that, for once, few adjustments
have to be made on seasonal
growth, the decline is a fair
indication of the still dimish-
ing need for funds.

The breakdown of borrowing
by sectors shows that manufac-
turing industry as a whole had
cut its borrowings from the
London banks to £37m over the
level of the previous three
months, although counting
mining and construction, there
was a tiny rise.

Personal borrowing showed
an increase of £83m, but lend-
ing to the service industries was
lower.

One factor to emerge from the
most recent figures is that
there appears to have been evi-
dence of some public sector
borrowers shifting their borrow-
ing from the banks to the
money markets to take advan-
tage of rates which had fallen
below those available from the
banks. This is thought to be
one factor behind the £72m
drop in public sector borrow-
ing.

Despite indications from one
clearing bank, Barclays, that the
inability to offer deposit rates
competitive with those of the
building societies was leading to
a drain of deposits out of the
bank, there is no evidence of
any underlying reduction in
sterling deposits by United
Kingdom residents.

Fisons raising nearly £20m by rights issue

By Our Financial Staff

Fisons, the fertilizer, pharma-
ceutical and agrochemicals
group, is making a rights issue
to raise £19.9m. New shares are
being offered on a one-for-four
basis at 25p a share.

The aim is to broaden the
group's capital base and enable
it to continue its international
development. The board stated
yesterday it believed the group
should continue to invest in the
development of products based
on its own successful research.

The rights issue announcement
came in conjunction with
1975 figures showing a rise in
pre-tax profits from £14.6m to
£16.7m. Earnings per share rose
from 30.3p to 36.4p and the
dividend goes up from 14.7p
(gross) to 16.1p.

For the current year, Fisons
is forecasting a gross profit mar-
gin equivalent to 17.7p on the
enlarged capital. The shares
closed 13p lower last night at
39½p.

Financial Editor, page 19

Iran oil companies call for summit with Shah

By Roger Vielvoys

The Shah of Iran has been
asked to arrange a summit meet-
ing with the heads of the inter-
national oil company members
of a consortium which buys
the bulk of the country's oil
output.

A top-level meeting was
suggested by the companies,
which are concerned at the
strained relations with the
Iranian government after the
decline in oil purchases by the
consortium.

The proposal was made as the
companies were due to begin
further negotiations on
revisions to the oil purchase
agreement signed in 1973.

Iranian oil production fell
by over 11 per cent last year,
and after considerable acrimony
the Iranians last month cut the
price of their heavy crude oil
to a so far unsuccessful attempt
to stimulate sales.

The 1973 agreement covers
more than sales. The com-
panies are obliged to put up
40 per cent of new develop-

Dow Jones tops 1,000 mark but slips back

From Frank Vogl

Washington, March 9

The Dow Jones Industrial
average breached the 1,000
barrier today, leading by more
than 12 points in the first 72
minutes of trading to reach
1,000.16 by 10.42 am. The last
time it exceeded this level was
on January 25, 1973, when it
closed at 1,000.34.

However, the upward surge
was not maintained today and
before the close the index had
slipped back to 993.70—up 4.96
on the day. A great deal of the
record trading in securities so
far this year has been on behalf
of institutions.

Today many brokers sug-
gested that, now the psychologi-
cal 1,000 barrier has been
passed, the small investor
would be encouraged to return
to the market, giving the
upward movement a further
momentum.

This week's upsurge is being
largely attributed to growing

recognition of the fact that in-
terest rates are not going to
rise as sharply as had widely
been feared.

The Federal Reserve Board
has indicated in its money
market dealings that it is aim-
ing to stabilize rate levels
rather than allowing them to
rise significantly.

Now the Fed is thought
likely to maintain its moderate
expansion of the money sup-
ply, which may lead short-term
rates to inch upward as credit
demand increases. But, as
many experts point out, such a
trend is only to be expected at
this point in an economic re-
covery. Wall Street's stance
gains are also attributed to the
mass of encouraging general
economic statistics published
by the government during the
last few days. These show that
the rate inflation has been
easing, with unemployment
declining steadily as demand
from retailers, wholesalers and
manufacturers expands.

Maritime Fruit talks adjourned

Further talks aimed at re-
solving the cash crisis which
has hit Maritime Fruit Carriers,
the Israeli-American shipping
group which has major commit-
ments with United Kingdom
shipyards, were adjourned last
night.

The meeting at the company's
London headquarters was
attended by representatives of
a large number of British,
American and European banks
and Mr. H. Struve Hensel, chief
executive of MFC which is in
default on some £12m of bank
payments, and a further £7.5m
of supply and service debt.

UK shipyards output at highest for 15 years

By Peter Hill

Industrial Correspondent

Britain's hard-pressed ship-
building industry last year
launched more merchant ship-
ping than in any year since
1960. But the performance of
the yards last year, while
apparently marking an encour-
aging improvement in pro-
ductivity levels, was in fact
considerably lower than in the
industry's peak output of 1.47
million tons in 1955.

Last year United Kingdom
yards launched a total of
1,304,097 tons gross (and this
would indicate a high level of
completion this year when the
industry is taken into state
ownership) compared with 1.33
million tons in 1960.

Since the late 1950s the
British industry's performance

has been in almost constant
decline, yet other yards have
consistently lifted their output
levels.

Over the past 10 years, while
world output has tripled, United
Kingdom output has remained
virtually static at around the
1.1 million ton mark.

Last year tonnage completed
by British yards at 1.17 million
tons was the second lowest
since 1969, yet tonnage com-
pleted by most of the industry's
international competitors rose
to new record levels.

But a spokesman for the
company said yesterday that
these negotiations were such a
delicate stage that no informa-
tion could be given.

Derek Crouch (Contractors)

LIMITED
Opencast mining, building and civil engineering
contractors, distributors of compressed air and
material handling equipment

Group Results for the year to December 31, 1975

	1975	1974
Turnover	£21,502	£17,860
Earnings before Taxation	1,134	933
Corporation tax	534	461
Net Profit after Taxation	600	472
Dividends for the year (1975) after allowing for Mr. D C H Crouch's waiver of £37,000	274	247
Profits for the year retained	£326	£225
Earnings per share on issued share capital at 31st December, 1975	6.19p	4.9p

Dividend

The directors propose to recommend to shareholders that at the
Annual General Meeting to be held on 31st March, 1976 a final
dividend of 2.266p per Ordinary share be paid on 2nd April, 1976
to shareholders on the register on 5th March, 1976, which together
with the interim dividend paid in January last makes a total
distribution of 3.062p per share compared with 3.005p per share
last year. This represents the maximum dividend payable under
present regulations.

The Chairman Mr. D C H Crouch, reported in his
statement that:-

"Despite the general recession which has been experienced by the
Building industry we have managed to increase both our turnover
and profits in this sector."

The Company has a substantial workload in Opencast Mining and
is well placed in every way to take advantage of the increased
Opencast Coal programme. Mining operations, both in
Northumberland and South Wales were very disappointing in the
first half of the year, but there was a substantial improvement in
the second half which has continued into 1976 with production in
excess of target and we see no reason why this should not be
maintained.

As to the future, in spite of the world difficulties that exist, morale
and confidence remain high and the Directors look forward to a
further successful year's trading."

Copies of the Annual Report may be obtained from The Secretary

DEREK CROUCH (CONTRACTORS) LIMITED
Head Office: Peterborough PE6 7UW

How the markets moved

The Times index: 167.49 +1.00
The FT index: 411.4 -0.1

Rises

Asiatic	6p to 21½p
Barclays	8p to 11½p
Brit. Leyland	3p to 33p
Heath, C. E.	11p to 28½p
Jardine Matheson	15p to 38½p
Leadbetter & Godwin	15p to 12½p
Needhams	2p to 23p

Falls

Blackburn Mines	5p to 17½p
Brit. Amalgamated	10p to 14p
Brit. Overseas	15p to 28½p
Glifford Bros	15p to 20½p
Grovetree	5p to 8½p
Hannover	15p to 34½p
Joseph, L.	10p to 18½p

Equities made a poor showing.
City-edged securities had a better day.
Sterling was down 10 points at
£1.9415. The "effective devaluation"
was 22.2 per cent.
Gold rose 25 cents an ounce to
\$132.25.

On other pages

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THE POUND

Time Derby	7p to 116p
Transport Dev	5p to 60p
Union Corp	8p to 295p
Waterford Glass	2p to 26p
Wheway Watson	1p to 111p
Witter, T.	3p to 384p

Lloyds Bank	5p to 220p
Middland	3p to 288p
Protopia	4p to 269p
Sleep Rock	7p to 145p
UU Textiles	8p to 4p
Vlakfontein	5p to 62p
W Rand Cons	6p to 94p

Liquidator balks at Titcombe terms for Norton Villiers sale

By Clifford Webb

Last-minute problems have arisen over the proposed purchase of Norton Villiers, Wolverhampton, by Mr Roald Titcombe, the Australian oil man. It had been hoped that the contract prepared by the liquidator and approved by the Committee of Inspection would be signed today.

But last night Mr Kenneth Morgan, the Cardiff accountant who was appointed liquidator nearly eight months ago, said: "I find myself unable to accept changes to the contract which have been proposed by Mr Titcombe."

At the London headquarters of Arunta, the oil consultancy company headed by Mr Titcombe, inquiries were referred to Lord Heskestad, the major racing patron, whose name has been connected with Mr Titcombe's plans for Wolverhampton. But he too was unavailable for comment.

The existing contract calls for the factory buildings to be bought for £750,000. This would give Mr Titcombe immediate access. He would then have to find a further £2m within three months to pay for the plant and work-in-progress.

Production experts and accountants were introduced to the Wolverhampton plant some weeks ago to prepare for a restart by the new owners. Approaches have also been made to component companies to reestablish supply lines.

There is a significant partly completed Norton motor cycles and components in the factory to produce about 300 machines. Many of them are special models intended for British police forces.

The action committee representing the 800 workers maintaining a strike has been told that employees will be able to buy shares in the proposed company, to be called the British Norton Partnership. They have also been offered six seats on the board, two of which will be non-voting.

Wordplex system launched

By Kenneth Oweo

Technology Correspondent

Computer technology has been applied to office word-processing systems for the easy editing and automatic production of letters and reports—in a new concept announced in London yesterday by Votek, a Canadian-owned minicomputer company.

Typists sit at video terminals to type and manipulate the text as required. The terminals are linked to magnetic disc storage units, and to a special dual-processor minicomputer.

Wordplex, as the system is

called, is aimed at the larger organizations—a minimum of about six terminals would be economic, while the maximum per system is 32. For a typical eight-station, three-printer system the price would be about £55,000.

Increased office productivity, the ability to handle large amounts of text, and flexibility in tailoring systems to individual requirements are claimed. Hardware and software have been developed in California and in Buckinghamshire respectively, and the systems will be assembled at the Votek factory in north-west London.

Midlands concern over state aid restrictions

The West Midlands Economic Planning Council has told Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, of its concern about proposals to restrict financial aid to companies who make planning agreements with the Government.

In a letter to Mr Varley yesterday, Mr Quinton Hazell, the council's chairman, said: "We question the propriety of the threat implicit in the restriction of financial advantage to those individual trading concerns which comply with government-imposed agreements."

"There may be reasons why a company should feel unable to enter into a formal agreement, and it would seem punitive to introduce what amounts to a commercial sanction against them, especially since the planning agreement relationship is expressed to be a wholly voluntary one."

Mr Hazell, commenting on the government discussion paper, "The Contents of a Planning Agreement," also takes exception to the proposed introduction of preferential treatment for the assisted areas.

He says: "Together with other west Midlands regional bodies, the council have on many occasions drawn the attention of ministers to the need for a radical review of regional industrial assistance. We think that an agreement, whose declared objective is to improve industrial performance should not be hampered from the outset by constraints of a nature simply because the company is located outside an assisted area."

He also urges Mr Varley to ensure that the system of planning agreements is limited to major companies.

OECD experts raise sights on national recovery projections

From David Blake

Paris, March 9. Senior economists at the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development have slightly raised their estimates of the rate at which European countries are emerging from recession.

The new figures, presented to a meeting of the economic policy committee of the 24-nation organization here today, bring the secretariat closer into line with national government projections.

However, the secretariat remains slightly more pessimistic than the individual member states. It now accepts that West Germany will achieve growth for the whole of 1976 of at least 4.1 per cent, which is the lower range of German government predictions, suggesting that growth might be as much as 6 per cent.

For France, the secretariat is expecting growth somewhat around 4 per cent, which brings it closer to the government level

at a time when there are suggestions that the French may be taking a more cautious view than previously.

One country where there still remains a significant divergence between forecasts by the secretariat and those of the government is Japan. The secretariat is predicting 4 per cent, while Tokyo projects 6 per cent.

OECD maintains that the Japanese government's figure cannot be achieved on the basis of domestic demand, which is what the Japanese themselves hope will be the major focus of growth.

The senior officials attending today's meeting are examining not just the arithmetic of forecasting but the more general prospects for recovery. They are particularly concerned with whether the recovery is soundly based so that it can be maintained rather than petering out, and whether it can proceed without causing a new burst of inflation.

The meeting ends tomorrow evening.

Commission urges Britain to resist reflation calls

From David Cross

Brussels, March 9

The European Economic Commission today urged the British Government to "resist" calls to reflate the economy significantly.

This timely advice, which will cheer Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, as he draws up next month's Budget, is contained in the Commission's latest economic policy guidelines to member states in the Community.

The Commission also suggests that new arrangements to replace the Government's present monetary policy "should be compatible with the overriding objective of bringing the rate of wage inflation closer to that obtaining in the United Kingdom's principal competitors."

Such a policy is an essential precondition for a return to higher levels of employment in

the foreseeable future, the Commission maintains.

In its analysis the Commission concedes that "considerable progress" has been made towards reducing the rate of inflation and the deficit on the current balance of payments. Nevertheless, the annual rate of price inflation remains "a source of concern."

Prospects for 1976 point to a small but gradually strengthening recovery in Britain's output.

Swiss prices fall: Switzerland's claim to be the country with the lowest inflation rate is reinforced by a 0.1 per cent drop last month in the consumer price index, now a mere 3 per cent above its level of a year ago. The index also reflects the fact that over the past five years, the average appreciation of the Swiss franc against the 13 main trading currencies has been 45 per cent.

\$1,300m loan decision soon

From Our Own Correspondent

Brussels, March 9

Finance ministers of the Nine will have to decide next week whether to accept a huge EEC loan being raised by West German and British bank consortia for Italy and the Republic of Ireland.

According to well-informed European Commission sources, the EEC fund will be divided between Italy and Ireland, the EEC member states who have decided to make use of the Community's borrowing scheme,

which was originally designed to help countries with balance of payments problems. The Italians have requested a total of \$1,000m and the Irish \$300m.

Although Commission officials in Brussels are unwilling to reveal details of the conditions for the loans, which will have to be approved by finance ministers next Monday, it is understood that the West German loan will be secured partly by six-year securities placed directly with the public at a fixed 6.25 per cent interest rate, and partly of funds put up by the banks themselves over a three to four-year repayment period.

The British loan, which would be for six years, would carry a variable interest rate.

£5m Post Office order placed for Chrysler vans

Chrysler UK has won orders worth nearly £5m from the Post Office for 2,265 vans to be delivered over the next 12 months. The bulk of these orders, comprising 1,481 Commer third-door vans with petrol engines, will go to the telecommunications branch. They will be supplied by complete works special fitments to Post Office specifications.

Another 34 vans will be supplied to the postal engineering service. Chrysler's Daimler commercial vehicle plant will supply 750 Commer vans fitted with Perkins diesel engines for postal delivery work.

Houlder Bros seek oil system stake

Houlder Brothers, the offshore drilling and shipping group, and the French-owned Comex diving organization are looking to buy a major stake in the Seal subsea oil production system.

The two companies are likely to be involved in further commercial exploitation of the successful research and development work undertaken over the past six years by Seal, a company in which three large oil companies, BP, Mobil, and the French CFP—have a shareholding.

Swedes to cut back steelmaking project

Norrbotnen, the Swedish state steel company, is to cut back plans for the country's largest industrial complex, Steelworks 80, including abandonment of its projected collaboration with Krupp of West Germany.

Mr Erik Grafstrom, the chairman, said the cost of the revised project, 13,000m crowns (about £1,500m) at current prices, would be 20 per cent less than the price of the original project.

36pc car imports

Revised figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders show that imported models captured more than 36 per cent of the United Kingdom market last month. Just under 24 per cent of the market was taken by European car makers compared with 18.8 per cent a year earlier.

Price check doubts

The Government's voluntary price check scheme does not appear to have had a great deal of impact on the hardware trade. Lord Redmayne, chairman of the Retail Consortium, said yesterday in Reading,

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Income tax: a need for 'education'

From Mr J. R. Hough

Sir, More of the hoary old myths about our income tax system have once again raised their ugly heads. May I attempt to dispel them?

In the letter from Mr J. M. Rampton (March 5) he implies that a couple with husband and wife both working are particularly harshly treated and may find themselves on the higher tax rates because their joint wages exceed the ceiling of £4,500 taxable income. This is not so. All they have to do is to notify the Inland Revenue that they wish to be taxed as single people and they will then be dealt with separately, that is they can choose the arrangement under which they will pay least tax.

This myth is, of course, a resurrection in disguise of the notion that "it is cheaper to live in sin than to get married": with respect to income tax payments at least, this is not true.

Secondly, Mr Rampton raises the comparison between an apparently overtaxed Britain and a Continent of Europe enjoying much lower levels of taxation. The following figures are from Eurostat, 12/1975:

Central government taxes per head of population (in £)	
Germany	1,028.6
France	848.7
Italy	398.1

Netherlands	955.3
Belgium	892.8
Luxembourg	1,291.3
United Kingdom	702.5

(figures not given for Denmark or Ireland).

I would not want to claim that these figures necessarily show that we are, apart from Italy, the least taxed country in Europe, since much depends on which statistics one uses, and how they are presented, but at least they should help to dispel the notion of an excessively overtaxed Britain.

The above figures related to all central government taxes. The point is, of course, that looking at income tax rates in isolation is meaningless. We certainly have higher rates of income tax than any other country in Europe, but we also have lower rates of indirect taxes. When all taxes are put together, total tax bills in the various countries are broadly comparable. In OECD's annual league table of tax incidence, the United Kingdom usually comes about half way up (or down) the table.

Perhaps there is a case for pressing for lower levels of income tax offset by an equal total increase in the bill for indirect taxes? Personally, I have no strong feelings one way about this and it may well be true that there would be beneficial effects on incentives to work, so far as I know, no one has systematically calculated what this would mean in terms of, probably, substantially increased post-tax prices for cars, consumer durables, etc.

Mr P. H. Stunt (March 8) has misread the penultimate paragraph of my previous letter. I am not so naive as to suggest that employees rarely object to paying income tax! My reference to "saving for retirement" was clearly tied to contributions to the company's internal pension scheme and had nothing to do with income tax.

However, I think the greatest part of Mr Stunt's letter is essentially a plea for more effective publicity by the government of how the income tax system works and how each of us may quite legally minimize our tax bills. I would strongly support him in this. The fact that all these myths crop up so constantly must indicate a failure of communication somewhere. I suspect the root problem is that the Inland Revenue has been so overworked and understaffed for many years that they never have time to turn their attention to "educating" Yours faithfully,

J. R. HOUGH,
Department of Education,
University of Technology,
Loughborough,
Leicestershire LE11 3TU.
March 8.

Sandilands and monetary liabilities

From Mr Peter L. Watson

Sir, I hope you can find room for one more contribution to the debate on the Sandilands Report as it seems we are now in a position to identify more precisely the differences between pure Sandilands, and Sandilands, amended by the addition of a statement of purchasing power changes.

It is pertinent to ask Professor Lawson (letters March 4) how he would measure his income if he owned, rather than owed, £1,000 of 20 per cent 25 year debt in an economy which correctly anticipated the rate of inflation? There are two possible answers.

First, Professor Lawson could take the same view on his monetary assets as he takes on monetary liabilities. The income would be the full interest, receipt of £200 and we may call this the money income. If the whole of this income were spent each year, Professor Lawson would find that each succeeding year his interest would purchase a smaller and smaller quantity of physical goods.

The second answer involves correcting the interest received for this reduction in its purchasing power. This is achieved by deducting from the interest received, an amount equal to the rate of inflation times the value of the asset. The figure resulting from this calculation we may call the real income. If the whole of this income were spent each year, an amount equal to the rate of inflation times the value of the asset would find that, roughly speaking, he could purchase the same amount of physical goods each year.

These two answers are exactly analogous to the two possible treatments of monetary liabilities. If no correction is made for gains on monetary liabilities, the interest is treated as a money cost. If a correction is made, the interest is treated as a real cost. I have always understood that the purpose of correcting accounts for inflation is to produce a real, rather than a money, measure of income.

This, broadly speaking, is what the Sandilands Report achieves by its recommended treatment of fixed assets and stocks. Consistency would suggest that all other costs and revenues should be dealt with on a similar basis. Therefore it would be appropriate to allow for gains on monetary liabilities. The alternative treatment combines real and money figures and merely produces a hybrid. This hybrid does have its own beauty: it produces minimum tax bills for highly geared companies in a situation of continuing inflation. However, it has one great flaw: it is meaningless. If we understand this the debate will have contributed more than just hot air.

Yours faithfully,
PETER WATSON,
20 Court Lane,
Dulwich,
London SE21 7DR.
March 4.

Non-executive directors and accountability

From Mr A. S. Watkins

Sir, I read with interest the article by Kenneth Bond (March 2) entitled "For how much longer can the higher paid take the brunt of wage restraint?" and the comparative figures of net earnings published therewith.

I only wish that the article could be published in some of the more "popular" newspapers, and that I could be sure that the contents would be lawfully digested.

An interesting addendum to the chart would be the effective net pay of the self-employed professional man. Take, for example, a £10,000 solicitor or accountant, who is unable to draw (say) more than £8,000 of his audited net profit of £10,000 (the remainder of necessity staying in his practice to provide working capital and some reserve). That singularly unfortunate individual must nevertheless find approximately £3,500 tax, leaving him an effective net pay of £4,500, and a big bump in his practical standard of living. Of course, the rest there, but it cannot be got at. If ever there was a case for just a fraction of ingenuity an effort to be exercised by the Government in bringing about an equitable solution to a potentially unjust state of affairs, surely this is that case. Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY S. WATKINS,
20 Richmond Road,
West Midlands,
B73 6BT.
March 5.

"Increase in rates of Reversionary Bonus."

Extracts from the Statement by the Chairman M. T. N. Risk

to be presented to the Annual General Meeting on 16th March 1976.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

The problems which dominated my annual review a year ago are still with us. There are welcome signs that the steps which our Government are belatedly taking to counter inflation are having some effect, though at a cost to the living standards of many. As unemployment continues to increase, the battle against inflation will become more difficult and unpopular but failure would be disastrous for all. Life assurance companies are peculiarly vulnerable to inflation since the terms on which their contracts have been made are fixed and cannot be adjusted to allow for increased costs. Further, long term contracts demand stability in the value of the currency in which they are expressed, if policyholders are not to be cheated of their reasonable expectations. We are solidly behind the Government in their intention to restore credibility to our currency.

INVESTMENT CONDITIONS

The change in market levels during the year added approximately £200m. to the value of the assets shown in our accounts a year ago. We judge the value of our assets by the security of the capital and the income they produce and not by their market value at a particular moment. Our judgments are naturally less volatile than those of the market; this approach brought us reassurance when we contemplated the fall in market values at the end of last year but, per contra, we must guard against undue caution at the recovery.

There has been much, and largely ill-informed, criticism in recent months that the investing institutions have not adequately provided finance for industry. I am not persuaded that this claim has any foundation in fact. Uncertainty as to the Government's aims and policies does not breed confidence and the extent of the Government's own borrowings has increased the cost of raising new capital to a prohibitive level when compared with the profit likely to be derived from its investment. This is the crux of a problem which will not be solved by tinkering with symptoms or setting up any elaborate organization which will not in itself tap any new source of funds. For equity investment, a reduction in Government borrowing and a recognition that the life blood of commerce and industry is net profits out of which further investment can be financed are essential.

LEGISLATION

Apart from the direct administrative cost of complying with ever more complicated rules, there is a hidden and growing cost in the costs of policyholders being called upon to bear as a result of various legislative enactments which have as their object the protection of the consumer. Unfortunately, in the context of our business, such protection is likely to benefit only a minority and for the majority the price at which it is purchased may be high.

NATIONAL PENSIONS

The Government has repeatedly stated its desire to encourage good occupational pension schemes, and the Department of Health and Social Security has shown itself sympathetic to the representations which the pensions industry has made on the need to find some means of limiting the liability to revalue accrued pension rights of employees who leave before pension age. The open-ended nature of this commitment was undoubtedly inhibiting decision and the introduction of new occupational schemes. The announcement made in mid-February that one of the solutions for which the industry had pressed was to be adopted was therefore most welcome.

CANADA

The Company's reputation in Canada is high and is continually maintained by the excellence of the results of its with profits policies and of the investment return on its funds of which there can be no better evidence than the growth of the volume of money committed to us for investment management which now amounts to about \$500m. at market value.

VALUATION RESULTS

The main source of our strength, and our ability to meet with success the strains we were put to last year lies in the margin which we have always maintained between the rate of interest we actually earn on our funds and the rates which the market assume will be earned when making their calculations. The changed conditions, and the falling of the rates of interest ruling at the end of last year were surely abnormal, have led them to feel that the rates assumed in the valuation of our liabilities should be reduced so as to preserve the strength of our valuation basis. We have therefore taken credit for £150m. of the appreciation which has occurred in the value of our assets and we have applied virtually the whole of this sum to meeting the cost of the alteration in the basis on which our liabilities have been valued.

BONUSES INCREASED

The high rates of interest available have increased the revenue surplus available for distribution, both here and in Canada, and have permitted a modest, but significant, increase in our rates of reversionary bonus. The drop in the rates of interest assumed in our valuation allows us to put a higher value on the future income expected to be derived from our equity portfolio than in 1974 and this has resulted in an increase in our rates of terminal bonus. For twenty-five years, now, the "Economist" has compiled tables comparing the claim values of policies effected at a fixed premium with different companies. We have been consistently among the leaders in these comparisons and I believe that the current declaration will enable us to maintain a record which is equalled by few and surpassed by none.

Standard Life

The largest mutual life assurance company in the European Community

BEFORE THERE WAS A U.S. DOLLAR, THERE WAS A NEW YORK BANK.

سكوت الاصل

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Fisons strengthens its capital base

Mr George Burton, chairman of Fisons: a progressive improvement expected from fertilisers.

De Beers Diamond sales recover

Results from De Beers Consolidated Mines for 1975 have to some extent been overtaken by events. But they need to be viewed against the background of two important new factors: first, of course, the political situation in Africa and, secondly, changes in the pattern of demand for diamonds.

With international, and particularly American, economies recovering, diamond sales should have a good year. The first two signs this year have been good with the February sales apparently setting a new record in dollar terms. Last year the diamond account was 10.7 per cent down at R216.8m, and a near 42 per cent increase in the second half has to be set against an exceptionally poor first six months of 1974.

Moreover, the margin on Central Selling Organisation sales was also down. However, the 8.5 per cent in pre-tax profits of R286.2m was translated in a marginal post tax increase from R201.5m to R202.7m because of a one-off gain from the change in South West African taxation.

The shares, at 224p last night, may react poorly to the figures; the dividend has been increased in line with the company's conservative policy of 26 cents, but some optimists had been thinking of 30 cents or more. A yield of 7.4 per cent cum premium and a p/e ratio of 6 suggests that buying opportunities may present themselves but the political factor must be a burden for a company which derives more than a third of its earnings from South Africa.

Final: 1975 (1974)
Capitalisation £806m
Income R322.3m (R342.4m)
Pre-tax profits R286.2m (R312.2m)
Earnings per share 60.9 cents (56 cents)
Dividend gross 28 cents (25 cents)

United Biscuits Still finding growth

United Biscuits continued its impressive performance last year, with profits some 61 per cent higher. But the emphasis is changing. Firstly, the dramatic recovery at Keebler, the United States acquisition, that has provided the jump on the group's earnings growth over the past 18 months, peaked in the final half of 1975. Secondly, United's UK divisions look set for a strong upturn in the current year.

Keebler turned in trading profits of £4.6m in the final six months, roughly the same as the first half. But the annual increase in overseas trading profits from £3.9m to £7.2m would have been even better had it not been for the continuation of heavy losses in Spain in bringing the year's total to

£11m. The latter situation looks like remedying itself, with a breakeven result anticipated for the final half of the current year. Meanwhile, the profits trend at Keebler is still upwards, but at a more sedate pace.

But it is the domestic market that looks particularly favourable for United. Sales were up by nearly a fifth, and trading profits by more than that in the final six months of 1975, when lower prices for key raw materials helped to widen margins.

Despite some worries as to the course of commodity prices in the final half (although the group is budgeting for a rise of just 3 per cent in 1976 as against 22 per cent last year), United's pre-tax profits must be heading for a minimum of £26m. There is a further bonus in a full year impact of rights issue cash on borrowings and finance charges, combined with lower working capital requirements this year. The shares performed strongly against the market last year, but for the past few months have tended to merely keep abreast of it.

Food manufacturers might be ready for a general uprating, despite the political clouds and United's shares, 116p on a prospective p/e ratio of around nine can be expected to outperform the sector, despite the rather unattractive 3.8 per cent yield.

Final: 1975-76 (1974-75)
Capitalisation £113.6m
Sales £430.5m (£326.5m)
Pre-tax profits £22.3m (£13.8m)
Earnings per share 12.2p (8.3p)
Dividend gross 4.35p (3.42p)

BSR Volume returns

Ever since weaker-than-expected interim profits were announced last September, BSR's share price has been travelling too fast for comfort, almost doubling in the intervening period in 1975 and spurred on over the last couple of weeks by the fanfare over its new up-market turntable.

Yesterday's full year figures of £9.43m against £13.53m in 1974 were very much in line with expectations. None the less, the second half was picked up with profits of £8.1m comparing favourably with £1.3m in the first half and last year's £4.9m. From July record turnover production picked up smartly to over 75,000 units on the back of recovery in the United States, market which takes about two-thirds of BSR's output.

And in the volume-sensitive market the BSR dominates that has done wonders for margins in the second half. But for the year as a whole these were still some eight points below the year before at 12 per cent. Provided margins can get back to the 25 per cent level of earlier years BSR should be capable of £22.4m this year now that production is at a record level of 240,000 units.

Continued strength of the more important sound reproduction side will more than offset the 30-40 per cent drop in demand now being experienced in the consumer products division. Even with the return to a more normal tax charge, the shares are selling at only seven times prospective earnings but a yield of 3.1 per cent, however well covered, is not enough bait for institutional investors who will see no benefit from the "Accurate" turntable until the following year, at the earliest.

Final: 1975 (1974)
Capitalisation £85.4m
Sales £91.4m (£81.1m)
Pre-tax profits £9.43 (£13.53m)
Earnings per share 8.75p (£13.53m)
Dividend gross 3.52p (3.77p)

Business Diary: Shaikh at bay • Teacher's pet

uniformed and plain utility agents totting up two-way traffic on the normally 00 acres of the Bay Club in Panama.

There to protect med Zaid Yamani, Arabian oil minister, longer as fond of the thick and thin.

The Shaikh's y about security under last year of p, King Faisal, and happening along with colleagues in Vienna.

minister made the f his safety the cons coming to Florida. Saudi Arabia's prver of the Aramco

taking no chances, e State Department, appears to be coorvity. Among those he Shaikh are e pri security company, service, the FBI, the s, special United chals, the air force

sales taking part in ere made to swear would keep secret r of a meeting he they would be ver, e local report on the secret after na City began in ok and sound like ump.

h is thought to be l that word has b His embassy in will even now say he Shaikh is "same e United States".



Hollowood

"According to Margaret Thatcher one in three trade unionists is a Conservative. Well, which of us is it?"

Enlightenment

Derek Robinson has been known in trade union circles as "the gitman's friend" since, as vice-chairman of the Pay Board, he produced the "relativities" report which subtly offered the Heath government a way out of the impasse with the miners.

Robinson now looks like developing a parallel reputation as the academic's friend in his new role as chairman of the Social Science Research Council, the current edition of the SRC newsletter is anything to go by.

The SRC, established by Royal Charter in 1965, promotes social science research by channelling public money into projects deemed likely to increase the sum of human knowledge.

Thus, Edinburgh anthropologist P. M. Jeffrey is to receive £50,000 towards a study entitled "Selection of spouses in a specific population of Muslims in Delhi".

At Hull, theologian D. E.

Gosling is down for £1,320 towards an inquiry into "Interaction of scientific and religious beliefs of 'The Scientists'". Far not that these projects may seem, it is at least barely possible to understand what they're all about if not why anybody other than the academics themselves should be interested.

Would, however, that the same could be said for the £3,943-worth promised by Sussex social psychologists G. R. Semin and A. S. R. M. instead. "An investigation into the cognitive aspects of social facilitation effects". If all that study were to come up with was an explanation of what the title meant, it wouldn't be money entirely wasted.

Uruguay policy
David Donald, general manager of the ultra-conservative Edinburgh-based Standard Life assurance office, recalled yesterday the circumstances in which the company decided to pull out of Uruguay.

It was in 1968—when the cost of running the business under South American inflation rates had reached the then unacceptable level of a quarter of premium income. Some staff were recruited to handle the run of long-term policies and since then administration costs have risen to three times premium income.

Had Standard Life, one of Britain's biggest mutual life offices, been doing business in Uruguay it would have gone broke long ago, Donald said. However, chairman Tom Risk chimed in to say that in this country expenses on the whole of the business have now reached 24 per cent of premium income, roughly average for the industry.

Into Bat

Action on Smoking and Health, the anti-smoking pressure group, was let off a possibly contentious hook when it recently received an interim dividend cheque from Rothmans International for the interesting sum of £8,000.

ASE is technically a dealer in tobacco shares, in so far as it buys minimum lots of shares, retaining only the number it needs to be able to appear at company meetings.

Executive director Peter Daube is hoping for a better dividend from the group's grading investment in British American Tobacco. Daube is working on questions for the BAT annual meeting tomorrow week, one of which is likely to be: "How many deaths have you been responsible for in the last 12 months?"

Liverpool lament

The decision to save money by closing the American Consulate in Liverpool comes in rather sad contrast to this year's free-spending bicentennial fervour. American officials have been on tap in Liverpool since 1790, except for a brief hiccup between 1812 and 1815 when the United Kingdom and the United States were at war.

That regrettable interlude was smoothed over in the most diplomatic of fashions. When the office reopened its doors after the war, the Consul General was none other than the same man who had first opened the office, a Virginian called James Maury.

The closure will cause the transfer of three officials, the loss of nine local jobs and some inconvenience to northern companies.

Liverpool is—or was—one of the oldest postings in the American foreign service and grew out of the city's primacy in the slave and cotton trades. For a time in the 1850s one of the Consul Generals was the novelist Nathaniel Hawthorne. The present chief official is George Peterson, who came from Okinawa two and a half years ago.

He, too, would have in the course of time rejoiced in the title of Consul General.

Oliver Stanley

The case for reforming company taxation

This year the Chancellor faces separate problems in the personal and corporate tax structures. Let us naively suppose that Mr Healey's main Budget objectives are towards continued pay restraint and inflation control, while seeking to build a solid base upon which industry can mount its medium-term recovery. That would seem not too difficult a programme for any Chancellor at any political persuasion to set himself in 1976.

Then, on the personal tax side, the problem is obvious and the route along which he should drive to solve it very clearly signposted: the basic direct tax rate of 35 per cent plus 5.75 per cent social security tax (from April 6) is too high; its threshold is too low and the progression from nil to 40.5 per cent is too steep.

At £4,000 a year a United Kingdom taxpayer's average rate is 22.4 per cent, compared with 11 per cent in Germany and 2.8 per cent in France. This situation has created the notorious end wall documented poverty trap, severe overtime disincentive, executive emigration and a general middle income squeeze.

Raising the threshold

All this Mr Healey cannot possibly ignore, the only question being whether he will go for a general increase in personal reliefs—which would work its way through all income brackets—or some new specialised small income relief, which would concentrate on raising the 1975-76 threshold of £28 a week for a married man with two children.

A lifting of the threshold by £600 per annum would give a married man personal relief of £1,555, the equivalent of a 16 p per cent increase. It would give rise to the middle range executive at say, £5,000 per annum, who is into the

higher rate bands—there is no lack of justification at that level and Mr Healey has already indicated that he is thinking on these lines.

It is in the corporate tax sector that more awkward fiscal management problems arise. In fact, it would be fair to say that the Chancellor—with the aid of his predecessors—has made a terrible mess of corporate tax, so much so that there is now a case for abolishing it altogether.

We have got a frighteningly high rate of 52 per cent, but a relatively tiny yield (see table)—less than that for 1973-74. Corporate profits have, of course, fallen back, but the main cause is the stock relief provisions introduced in November, 1974. The purpose was to give relief from corporation tax for the effect of inflation on a company's stocks.

Under the historic valuation system, tax is chargeable upon the difference between cost and sale price, paying no regard to the fact that the sale proceeds will be applied in purchasing replacement stock at current cost and to that extent will not be available to pay tax.

The stock appreciation relief—a formula devised in the liquidity crisis atmosphere of the 1974 winter—attempts to meet the point and permits companies to reduce taxable profits by the increase in stock values during a year. This is a deferral, not a forgiveness of tax, and the opening valuation for the succeeding year is correspondingly adjusted.

The weakness of this machinery is now emerging: first, it is a formula which takes no account of changed stock volumes. A company which permits its stock to mount up to inefficiently high levels receives relief as a reward for doing so.

Secondly, it has the effect of creating deferred tax liabilities in a company's balance sheet, on a scale which may affect a company's whole financial position and borrowing capacities.

Thirdly—despite this conclu-

ESTIMATED DIRECT TAX YIELD 1975-76			
	1975/76	1976/76	
	£m	£m	
PAYE (Schedule E)	12,000+	2,191	
Other income taxes: (Schedules A to D)	2,008	1,492	
Residual surtax	85	204	
Death duties	315	293	
Capital gains tax	325	NIL	
"Corporation Tax" (mostly ACT)	2,125	437	
	£17,078	£4,617	

* Profits tax and EPT

sion of Sandilands—there is an argument in favour of the total exemption of building gains on stock, rather than deferral and clawback each year.

Fourthly, the manner in which the relief has been introduced—two separate bites at the cherry so far—has created much uncertainty in industry, as companies are finding it unusually awkward to forecast their next year's tax liabilities.

How formula has worked

Despite all these disadvantages, it can be argued that the formula has in practice worked well—only too well. Mainstream corporation tax bills have dropped sharply, leaving in many cases a liability consisting only of advance corporation tax, the tax related to the amount of dividends or other distributions paid by a company in a particular financial year. Advance corporation tax can in theory be set against a liability to mainstream corporation tax chargeable upon profits. But if there is no mainstream corporation tax, ACT cannot be credited.

That is what has been happening, largely because of stock adjustment relief. Corporation tax has been transformed into a dividend withholding tax—exactly what it was not supposed to be.

It is not shown in the CIR Report* how much of the forecast corporation tax is ACT, but some idea of the respective proportions can be deduced from the statement that of the increase in corporation tax between 1973-74 and 1974-75—some £396m—£575m represented increased ACT.

In fact, 1974-75 corporation tax was £124 m higher than forecast because of "errors in the estimation of the timing of impact of stock relief".

What seems to emerge—extrapolating from these figures—is that corporation tax has become a fairly meaningless exercise in terms of yield and the long-term effect of the increase in corporation tax between 1973-74 and 1974-75—some £396m—£575m represented increased ACT.

It does not seem to put it mildly—an ideal answer to the problem, namely, the fair—did Sandilands put it forward as such. In the end that report recommended a Royal Commission to deal with the tax problems of inflation accounting, indexing of capital gains, a

review of writing down allowances and the practical effects of the ACT system.

Certainly some better stock adjustment relief machinery must be forthcoming soon. That machinery must be sufficiently sensitive to restore corporation tax—chargeable at a less deterrent rate—to its rightful place in the yield table and it must eliminate the damaging cumulative effect.

In the meantime, all forms of direct tax, including corporation tax, look meaningless in terms of yield, save those taxes which operate at source—charity, PAYE and, as it now seems, ACT. Deduction at source apparently makes up some £14,000m out of the total take of £17,000m.

A record of trivial yields

This looks ominous, in the sense that the only taxes producing any significant yield are those which are unavoidable. All the rest—individual trading profits, taxes on interest, capital gains tax and death duties, all of which have much higher collection costs—produce fairly trivial amounts, and this is despite rates of charge which are unprecedentedly high.

In the last decade, the yield from PAYE has risen sixfold and the yield from taxes not withheld at source has risen by about half. The combination of high rates and low yields suggests some fall-off in standards of tax compliance in Britain and demonstrates how ineffective are marginal rates of 52 per cent (corporation tax), 98 per cent (income taxes), and 75 per cent (death duties).

The truth of the matter is that Mr Healey can afford the most sweeping reductions in tax rates in next month's Budget. In every sense, save the political one.

* Report of HM Inland Revenue (118th Report) year to March 21, 1975 (Cmd 6302).

'Unemployment remains high and there is doubt about business confidence'

Unwarranted American euphoria about the pace of economic recovery

Frank Vogl

plant capacity use remains on average under 75 per cent.

Then there are a series of potentially dangerous problems lurking ahead. Some large trade unions have indicated that they will be seeking big wage increases in forthcoming negotiations, despite the high level of unemployment. The present year has a particularly heavy schedule of collective bargaining and the inflation trend could seriously be affected by the outcome.

Another worry on the inflation front is food prices, which have moved higher in recent months, but which an increasing number of agricultural experts now predict will rebound strongly in a few months. Energy prices, too, may also rise greatly, partly because of some relaxation in American controls and partly because dependence on foreign energy is rising steadily.

Finally, the public sector can give cause only for concern. The federal budget is likely this year to reach a record deficit and government borrowing could well exceed \$90,000m. Many leading cities face acute financing problems which could force large cuts in spending.

This would be bound to dampen the economy, while the prospect of some bankruptcies cannot be totally discounted, with all the psychological impact they could produce.

Certainly the economy has grown stronger since last summer, but it remains in fragile health, subject still to many uncertainties and likely to encounter numerous serious difficulties in months ahead. Glowing predictions are simply not warranted at present and suggestions by an increasing number of political writers that Mr Ford's election chances are sharply improving because the economy is doing so well appear at the moment to be totally irresponsible.

Carrington Viyella Ltd

Extracts from the Statement by the Chairman, Mr. L. Ragan, and the Directors' Report for the year ended 31 December, 1975

TRADING RESULTS AND DIVIDENDS

Trading profit for the year before reorganisation costs and interest amounted to £12,055,000 (1974 £14,847,000). Profit before taxation and extraordinary items amounted to £5,861,000 (1974 £9,016,000).

The interim dividend of 0.4875p per share was paid on 1 January 1976. The directors are recommending the payment of a final dividend of 1.225p per share bringing the total dividend on the ordinary shares to 1.7125p (1974 1.7275p). This decision was arrived at after consideration of the reduced borrowing position and the better prospects anticipated for the Group. After taking into account the related tax credit, the 1975 dividends are the same as those for 1974.

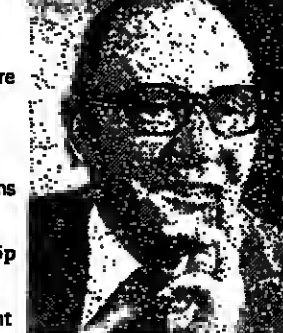
The gross charge to profit and loss account for both reorganisation and rationalisation costs was £2,754,000 (1974 £335,000).

The return on capital for the year (before charging reorganisation and rationalisation costs) was 9.0% (1974 11.7%). External sales in 1975 were £232,778,000, being 15% greater than in 1974.

REVIEW OF YEAR'S OPERATIONS

Throughout the world 1975 has proved to be the most difficult year the textile industry has had to face for many years.

Trading conditions had begun to deteriorate towards the end of 1974 and were expected to progress accordingly during 1975. In view of this, it was decided, for commercial and financial reasons, to contain stock levels. This resulted in short time working in the early part of the year, which, together with the poor trading conditions, had the inevitable adverse effect on profits. The beneficial results of this action are shown in stock levels, which in spite of inflation are similar to those at the end of 1974, and total Group borrowings which have been reduced during the year by £2 million. It was also necessary to ensure that the Company should be strengthened in order to



taka better advantage of future improved trading conditions. It was therefore decided to withdraw from certain marginal and loss-making operations and implement the closure of seven of our plants. The benefits obtained from these actions will be felt from 1976 onwards.

EXPORTS AND OVERSEAS COMPANIES

Despite the world-wide recession exports from United Kingdom companies were £22.2 million (1974 £22.5 million). The sales of the overseas companies were £40.8 million (1974 £33.5 million).

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE Group capital expenditure was slightly less than in 1974 at £9.0 million, of which £1.7 million was invested overseas.

During the next two years we shall invest a greater proportion of funds in the garment factories. When this programme has been completed, substantial productivity gains will have been achieved, giving increased production of garments from modernised and re-equipped factories.

OUTLOOK It would appear that the world-wide recession has now levelled off, but general economic problems peculiar to the United Kingdom make it difficult to give forecasts with confidence.

The development of our business is our constant concern and, of necessity, changing trading patterns demand changes in emphasis. We have the ability to make these changes. I believe that one of our most valuable assets is our merchandising skills in garments, home furnishings, carpets and fabrics and we will continue to exploit these strengths, supported by the efficient control of production from yarn to finished products.

I am confident that, provided there is no political catastrophe, the benefits of our past and planned capital investment will enable the Company to progress and prosper.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at The Dorchester, London, on 1 April, 1976. Copies of the Annual Report can be obtained upon request to The Secretary, 24 Great Pultney Street, London W1R 3DB.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Checked by property halt and Fisons' rights

Though both the overnight strength of Wall Street and a steadier pound were working in its favour, the market made a disappointing showing yesterday.

The key was the sudden suspension of Amalgamated Investment & Property which sent a shudder through the property sector and acted as a dampener on the general sentiment. The feeling is that AIP may not be the last.

Tomorrow Shell should please with word that 1975 profits easily beat £900m against £1 billion. Some are going for £25m, thanks to a good final quarter. This year the group has chemicals and better times in oil going for it, apart from overseas earnings.

The £20m rights issue from Fisons did not come as a complete surprise, but it was enough to weaken the shares 5p to 400p, and another 5p after hours. Most of the leaders closed to a narrowly mixed range and the FT index just 0.1 off, at 411.4, having spent most of the day on both sides of its overnight level.

Wall Street's brief excursion through the 1,000 mark had little effect to late trading. The fall to United States Treasury bill yields at the

latest auction, together with the calmer tone for sterling on the exchanges, produced a rally in gilt-edged prices following the recent fall.

Log-dated stocks closed with net gains of about 1 point, having at one stage been net 1 point higher. Similarly, short-dated stocks advanced, having 1 to 3-16 point better at one stage.

However, dealers said that trading was very thin and the market remained nervous. "Blue chips" were British American Tobacco 35p, Glaxo 397p and Courtauld 153p, while Unilever gave up 2p to 45p. But ICI made a more striking movement, advancing 4p to 397p.

Immediately after the suspension news there were losses ranging between 2p and 5p among the property leaders. But some late firmness had both Lead Securities 181p and MEPC 82p just a penny easier and Law Land unchanged at 67p.

Elsewhere on the pitch, Great Portland lost 2p to 238p, Regional "A" 21p to 35p and Town & City 1p to 171p.

again that high-flying shares Weyburn Engineering and at the end of the day the shares had leapt no less than 35p to 565p. The company has a high export content to its business.

Following a new bid approach, Emu Wine were marked up 15p to 185p, but both Bank Bridge, at 21p, and British Benzol 21p were off a point, one time following the withdrawal of the Tranwood offer.

Speculative buying gave a lift to Furness Withy 3p in 21p and Robb Caledon 5p to 53p. In the latter case, nationalization compensation was the spur.

In banks, Barclays 275p, Lloyds 220p and Midland 265p all shed 5p and National Westminster stayed firm at 240p. A feature was the new Lloyds shares, the most active stock in the day and down by 2p to 15p.

One of the firmest spots in a dull insurance sector was Royal where the gain was of 4p to 338p. Back in banks, Hong Kong & Shanghai responded well to Far East advances and jumped 14p to 334p.

Hitam 5p to 195p and Gopeng 5p to 185p.

Ahead of results De Beers were off 8p to 215p at one stage but still before the figures a late firming had the issue 1p up to 224p.

In oils, Shell ahead of tomorrow's figures were seven points to the good at 402p, while BP put on 5p to 605p.

A "rights" left Staflex untouched at 54p while Distillers continued to be aided by export potential and firmed a penny to 148p.

From companies reporting the

pick was Transport Development which put on 5p to 60p. BSR gave up 3p to 115p and Inveresk Paper 4p to 65p.

United Biscuits stayed firm at 18p after profits even better than expected.

Some think that Inchcape is eyeing Leslie & Godwin, the Lloyd's insurance broker. The attractions are a ready-made underwriting agency and overseas earnings. The shares jumped 11p to 125p, a gain of 17p in two days. Miner Goldings and Jardine Matheson were also mentioned, but there was a denial.

Equity turnover on March 8 was £65.25m (20,969 bargains). According to Exchange Telegraph active stocks yesterday were Lloyds Bank new, ICI, Shell, Unilever, Burnham, De Beers, Standard Chartered new, ELMC, Distillers, Consolidated Gold Fields, Rank "A", Fisons and Bechams.

Latest dividends

Company (and par value)	Ord div	Year ago	Pay date	Year's total	Prev year
Armstrong Equip Int	0.66	17	14/5	1.58	1.58
De Beers Fin	20	3.39	—	28	28
G. H. Downing (50p) Int	4	3.1	23/4	4.35	4.35
Inveresk (50) Fin	3.1	3	1/5	2.2	4.05
Inv Trust Guaranty (50) Fin	3.5	1.1	11/5	1.95	1.8
Merchants Trust (25) Fio	1.25	1.09	—	2.9	2.22
Staflex (25) Fio	1.7	1.74	14/5	2.85	2.67
Trans Dev (25) Fio	1.32	—	—	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pension shares. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross, multiply the net dividend by 1.54.

Staflex raising £1.3m by rights after peak year

By Tony May

Staflex International, is raising £1.34m by a two-for-seven rights issue. The £3.5m shares will be offered at 38p a share against 54p to the market.

After expenses, the proceeds should be £1.27m. The money will be used to reduce borrowings, and strengthen the capital base.

The interlinings and clothing equipment group estimates that 1975 pre-tax profits rose from £1.89m to a record £1.95m. The dividend is to go up from 3.3p to 4.46p, with the Treasury's blessing.

Pre-tax profits are given before deducting £35,000 for exceptional items, against £199,000. They represent half the cost of moving the manufacturing processes to new premises in the UK and Netherlands. It is planned to write off the remaining costs as extraordinary items in equal instalments over the next four years.

CARRINGTON VIYELLA

In general, however, Carrington Viyella (controlled by ICI), is not expecting an upturn to the United Kingdom economy until the second half of 1976, with overseas improvement somewhat earlier. When improvement becomes a reality, the board is confident of the group's ability to "improve" its performance substantially.

Richard Allen

TDG gives 1 for 10 as earnings hold up

By Ashley Druker

The pre-tax profits of Transport Development Group were one fifth down in the first half of last year but 1975 as a whole saw them only one tenth down. Times were hard for its international operations in road haulage, storage, exhibitions and engineering in Britain, Australia and Europe.

On turnover up from £119.34m to £129.35m, pre-tax profits (down from £7.02m to £5.6m to the first half year) were £12.12m compared with £13.35m. Net profits were £6.47m against £7.2m. These were struck before an extraordinary gain of £987,000 from

the sale of properties and currency conversion against an extraordinary loss of £334,000. Excluding the items earnings a share came out at 5.2p compared with 5.8p. The total dividend rises from 4.07p gross to 4.39p.

The board says that on the mainland of Europe, profits are improving. In Australia the return of business confidence, after the recent change of Government, is noticeable. But in Britain, there are still few signs of revival, and an increase in half-time profits this year is thought unlikely. Even so, the proposed one for 10 scrip issue helped the shares to rise a few pence.

Weyburn's sunny horizon

Quickly responding to encouraging news of Weyburn Engineering's opening quarter to January 31, the shares, up 1p on Monday, jumped another 45p to 580p yesterday.

Mr P. R. Royston, chairman, reported a "highly satisfactory" start, at the annual meeting. He added that first quarter results were again a record. All factories are busy and new plant will soon come on stream. The new acquisition at Tonbridge has been fully integrated.

The chairman is confident that results at Tonbridge will exceed expectations.

The acquisition of American group Camshaft Specialties will be completed by the end of the month. This newcomer opens up a "vast new market" for Weyburn products to be manufactured on both sides of the Atlantic. Plans are in hand to carry out an aggressive sales campaign in both North and South America.

Inveresk revival hopes now depend on higher selling prices

Down in the dumps last year Inveresk Group, the producers of paper and board and packaging materials, now awaits this year's second-half for any improvement.

For the year to December 31 pre-tax profits dived from £4.66m to £1.26m on a turnover down from £37.85m to £34.63m. Earnings a share on a net basis were 7.8p against 23.5p and on a nil basis 8.8p compared with 31.4p. The total payout is 6.71p gross against 6.5p.

The group is to continue with the "most rigid economies" What it makes this year will depend to an increasing extent on whether additional costs unavoidably incurred can be recovered in higher selling prices (a rise is likely to April).

On the brighter side customer stocks now appear to be well down. Demand, the board says, is showing an "encouraging" improvement. It adds a rider that present signs are that a sustained increase in general demand is unlikely to appear in the first six months, but things should be better after then.

Marchwiel confident

Mr A. J. McAlpine, chairman of Marchwiel Holdings, the building and civil engineering group taking in McAlpine Construction, is confident. Writing in the annual report he says that while the forward order book is a bit below last year in real terms it should present no problem in the coming year.

The chairman stresses the need to increase the overseas workload and cushion the group against swings in public work at home.

The current year has started well and he will be disappointed if there is no improvement in profits. In the year to October 31, Marchwiel's pre-tax profits advanced from £5.23m to £7.01m. Turnover rose from £98m to £144m.

Slump forces Small & Tidmas down

The textile slump continued to take its toll of the John C. Small & Tidmas Group in the second half of last year. Profits declined from £118,000 to £49,000, leaving the group with a 1975 pre-tax profit of £70,000 against £225,000. But turnover grew from £2.4m to £2.6m.

Shareholders will receive a dividend of 3.08p, against 3.45p. Earnings a share were 2.86p, gross compared with 8.52p.

Standard Life ahead

Standard Life Assurance, one of the leading Scottish mutual life offices, managed an above average growth of 30 per cent in new premium income on United Kingdom ordinary life business last year. World wide premiums rose 28 per cent to nearly £141m and total income, including annuity considerations and investment income, was up from £226m to £278m.

The group, which is one of

the first United Kingdom life offices to publish 1975 accounts, because of November 15 year end, was able to take credit for £150m in the ordinary long term insurance funds at the year end, because of the 1975 recovery in investment values. This brought the value of the fund up to £1,275m.

Receiver in at Fairfax Jersey

Fairfax Jersey, the Manchester-based textile group with a plant in Northern Ireland, has called in a receiver. In a statement, the board said the Northern Ireland authorities have refused further cash aid and its principal bankers were "unwilling to continue their support".

Last November the board said it had negotiated a £350,000 loan from the Northern Ireland Finance Corporation; a rationalization programme to arrest last year's £240,000 pre-tax loss was underway.

Now Fairfax says that the plan had not worked as quickly as expected. When the board called a halt to share dealings yesterday afternoon, the shares stood at 9p. This valued the group at £270,000, against an issued capital of £330,000.

May decision on option trading link

By the end of this month it should be known whether joint European option trading with Amsterdam is desirable. It will then be up to the Stock Exchange Council to decide in May whether it wants to trade in options or all, and if so whether a joint scheme with Amsterdam is desirable.

In April it should be decided whether there are any insuperable obstacles to going ahead. Options consultant Mr Peter Durlacher said yesterday, that London does not want a "Concorde" situation where agreement is reached and cooperation then proceeds regardless of cost.

A Reuters message from Amsterdam said that Amsterdam would "go it alone" if agreement appeared unlikely. Joint operation of option trading would require an electronic price information system linking the two cities.

Helene damper

With indications of higher 1975 profits from Helene of London, a mail and retailer of fashion and leisurewear, comes news that a supplier to one of its subsidiaries, Mark Russell, has called a creditors meeting. Mark Russell is owed about £250,000. It is making full provision for that amount in its accounts for the year.

Helene adds that profits before tax and the provision

should amount to about £700,000. In 1974, the group made £580,000. The board comments that Mark Russell is solvent and it will continue to receive the support of its parent company. Even so the shares weakened on the news.

Campari scrip scheme

The board of Campari, the leisure group, is going ahead with a scrip alternative to the cash interim dividend. But shareholders will have to take at least 0.1p a share of this 0.85p dividend in cash to preserve the group's status. The scrip issue works out at one share for every 34.08 already held.

Local loans steady

Local authority loans stay at 101 per cent for the second week running. Among those borrowing £1m and more are Merseyside Passenger Transport Executive, Stoke-on-Trent, Surrey, Doncaster and Middlesbrough (£1.5m). Derbyshire has raised £1m at 11 1/2 per cent due March, 1978.

E. Sussex stands firm

In its latest circular to shareholders, the board of East Sussex Engineering Group points out that the shares are higher than the 30p share cash offer from Aurora Holdings. It repeats its advice to take no action.

French firms' results

Three French companies announce results for 1975. Cie Bancaire, major lending institution's parent company, had net profits of Fr26.7m against Fr75.1m. The company is to pay a dividend of Fr8 (same).

Pricel SA, holding with textile and chemical interests, shows net profit of Fr26.2m against Fr26m. Operating profit was Fr27.9m against Fr28.3m. Carrefour, a major retailer, had a net profit of Fr11m against Fr9.9m. The company proposes a net dividend of Fr3.50, the same as that of 1974—AP.

Bid for Alsthom state

Chambers De L'Atlantique SA is thinking of taking a stake in STE Generale De Constructions Mecaniques Alsthom SA, according to Atlantic company sources.

Last week a CIE Generale De L'Electricite (CGE) spokesman said CGE had no immediate intention of reducing its 5 per cent stake in Alsthom. This might take place in longer term. Alsthom is expected to record a large loss in 1975 after a 1974 loss of Fr1.3m—Reuters.

BILL 50

Monday—Bill 50 Consolidated, has found uranium mineralisation with grades of up to nine pounds a ton at its Lake Barlee, Western Australia, joint venture. The extent of mineralisation has not yet been defined.

£22,000
return per year
for an investment of
£8,600

Microfilm pays great dividends

It's a surprising fact that one of the soundest financial investments can be a microfilm information retrieval system.

For instance, one cosmetic company installed a Bell & Howell microfilm system that paid for itself in seven months, saving them an incredible £22,000 every year. The system cost £8,600 and now handles their entire Sales Ledger records.

Then there is the major oil company that can retrieve and produce a copy of any one of 34 million documents in a staggering 30 seconds.

Or the food company that saved 1,000 sq. ft. of prime office space with their Bell & Howell system. They also saved the cost of purchasing 200 new 4-drawer filing cabinets.

If you are thinking of investing in microfilm, pick up the 'phone and talk

to Bell & Howell. Or fill in the coupon and we'll send you a booklet that explains how microfilm can save time, space and money in your business.

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Name

Position

Company

Address

BELL & HOWELL

"Work Performed and Profit at Record Levels"

Profits exceed £7 million

Work performed by the company rose to the record level of £144 million in 1975, although inflation accounted for a proportion of the rise. Profits were also at a record level, exceeding £7 million for the first time, and would have been higher but for losses on two major civil engineering contracts in the United Kingdom and heavy start up costs on certain overseas contracts. In this context I believe we have had a good year.

The results in the United Kingdom were significantly affected by the weather. In the early part of the year we had a wet, miserable winter and spring, but the wonderful summer and autumn more than made up for this.

Our liquidity, which has stood us in such good stead through difficult times, improved still further during the year and cash in hand is at a record level. Our work load at home and overseas is satisfactory and I am reasonably confident about 1976/77. We have an excellent case for recovering at least a substantial part of the losses on contracts referred to above. Further ahead there must be some doubts about the availability of work in Britain and the price at which it can be obtained. With this in view we are making good progress with the development of our overseas activities, although the difficulties in developing rapidly internationally, even for a company such as our own that is well experienced in overseas work, should not be underestimated.

Sir Alfred McAlpine & Son (Northern) Limited

The company had a good year and the forward order position is sound, particularly with the award after the year end of the largest civil engineering contract ever let in Britain, the Dinorwic hydro electric pumped storage scheme. This contract, valued at £60 million at January 1975 prices, will take four to five years to complete and contains an inflation clause which will give us some protection and mean that the final contract figure will be considerably higher.

CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

for the year ended 31st October 1975

	1975	1974
Turnover	144,321,000	98,272,000
Profit before taxation and extraordinary items	7,814,118	5,231,512
Taxation	3,686,787	2,515,510
Profit before extraordinary items	3,347,331	2,716,002
Extraordinary items	147,848	(785,811)
Minority interests	11,730	30,384
Profit attributable to shareholders	3,506,857	1,960,575
Dividends	482,464	444,922
Undistributed profit	3,024,393	1,515,653

certainly continue to do so in the immediate future.

My confidence is enhanced by the capability of our staff and workforce, who continue to produce excellent results under very difficult circumstances and I should very much like to thank them all for their efforts.

A. J. McAlpine,
Chairman.

MARCHWIEL HOLDINGS LIMITED
Controlling Sir Alfred McAlpine & Son Limited

سكنا من الاعمال

FINANCIAL NEWS

Int raise earnings
Record level of \$28.5m

E. Heller International (the parent of Britain's Heller Interiors) achieved a record level of \$28.5m in its financial operations for the year ended December, 1975.

Increased 6.1 per cent to \$2.52 a share. The basis fourth quarter rose 2.6 per cent, a new high, or 1.5 per cent.

ings, including net income, rose 1.5 per cent, or 1.5 per cent.

Overseas

up a record \$30.4m, share, with fourth quarter on the same 13.5 per cent to 4m, or 73 cents a

lin A. Cole, chairman, income from financing was \$28.5m with \$26.8m for preferred dividends, earnings from banking during the year \$2.52 a share.

ar foresees recovery

commenting on the 1976 in its annual report. "On the whole, the economic recovery is expected to be modest, but some time yet the high levels of activity in 1973 and 1974 will be added that pulp and paper will improve but only and return to

riefly

N YEA predicted reduction in the African sub-year's group profit to be in line with the board reports.

ION ENGINEERING for 1975, £798,000 pre-tax profit, £132,000 Total payment, 5.5p

INV TRUST investment Trust has risen multi-currency 0 (US) each-in February to invest in shares. Total multi-currency now \$3.5m.

TOCKPIS (Manchester) turnover for year to £3.06m (£3.21m), 00 (£189,000) after more extraordinary payment, 5.5p gross

ND Industrial Corporation profit for 1975, 8m). Total payment, 5 cents).

K TO GRANT World Bank President Namara said during his visit to London that the Bank will grant a loan of about \$40m to the Government of India for a cultural project.—AP.

ETCALEE profit for 1975, 1,000). Total payment, 1.21p). Total payment, 1.21p).

LDINGS for 1975, 1,000). Total payment, 1.21p). Total payment, 1.21p).

NDLAND INDUSTRIES At the annual meeting, Mr. E. C. Marshall, chairman, said: "The first five months of this year have progressed as we expected. We are showing improved profits. I have no doubt that the results for the current year will be satisfactory and that the group will continue to prosper."

ements for February the London Clearing Banks and their banking subsidiaries of Wales, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man made 18 are summarized in the table below:

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Weir takes in remainder of valve venture

Weir Group, with interests in engineering, foundries, aircraft equipment and water plant, has completed a deal in Long Beach, California. It has bought the 49 per cent holding in Weir Pacific Valves, of Glasgow, formerly owned by Pacific Valves Inc. of Long Beach. Weir already held 51 per cent of the shares.

Weir-Pacific Valves is a major international supplier of pumps, steel castings, sea-water desalination plant, aircraft equipment and other products.

At the same time, Weir reached a long-term agreement with Mark Controls Corporation, the parent of Pacific Valves. Under this deal, Weir-Pacific Valves will manufacture and supply additional important ranges of valves in association with Pacific Valves Inc.

New sugar trader for Jardine, Gill & Duffus

Jardine, Matheson and the Gill and Duffus Group are forming two companies which will jointly own and which will operate internationally as traders in sugar. The proposed names for the companies are Jardine Gill Guttermann Zucker-Handels-Gesellschaft, which will be in West Germany, and Jardine Gill and Duffus in New York.

Tilley again in loss

Tilley Lamp, now at the end of a bid, again reports a loss. For the year to December 27

The managing director of Jardine Gill in West Germany will be Mr. K. E. Guttermann and the head of Jardine Gill Inc. will be Mr. Niels Gammeltoft. It is planned to set up a similar operation in London. With the expansion of the existing sugar trading activities in Hongkong, the Jardine, Gill and Duffus Group will have a presence in the main sugar trading areas of the world.

Wagon Finance cool

In his annual statement, Mr. S. M. de Barolome, chairman of Wagon Finance, says he expects a "modest" increase in the amount of new business finance. But a big upturn must await a more buoyant economy, which he does not foresee this year.

He adds that barring any major surprises, interest rates should show some "moderation". With borrowings of over £20m, this would have a favourable short-term impact on group profits. Last year pre-tax profits rose from £300,000 to £1.4m, on an unchanged turnover of £7.5m.

I. T. Guernsey higher

recovery in revenue from £90,000 to £115,000 after tax in the six months to last December took the Investment Trust of Guernsey group up from £201,000 to £223,000 in 1975. Earnings a share were 4.8p, against 4.3p and the net asset

value a share 169p, against 101p. The dividend rises from 7.0p gross to 8.08p.

Lonsdale warning

In his annual report, Mr. Norman Ramseyer, chairman of Lonsdale Universal, the commercial stationery, packaging, retailing and technical services group, sees encouraging signs of an increase in general business activity, but he has some reservations on whether this improvement will absorb higher operating costs.

It is likely that the interim figures for the current year will be lower than the record first half profits of last year.

QUEBEC TO RAISE \$100m

The Province of Quebec is raising \$100m (US) in Eurobond market through a 550m five-year note issue with an expected coupon of 8 1/2 per cent, and a \$50m eight-year bond issue with an anticipated coupon of nine per cent.

MERCHANTS TRUST

Pre-tax revenue for year to January 31, £1.72m (£1.56m). Total payment 3p gross (£2.73p).

PIRELLI

Milan—Proposed 1975 dividend 110 lire (93). Pre-tax revenue for year to January 31, £1.72m (£1.56m). Total payment 3p gross (£2.73p).

UB United Biscuits

1975 Preliminary Figures
and Extracts from the Statement
by the Chairman, Mr Hector Laing

I am delighted to be able to report that 1975 was a most successful year both in terms of sales achievement and profit increase.

While a major part of the increases came from the United States, as the following table shows our U.K. based operations also had a satisfactory year.

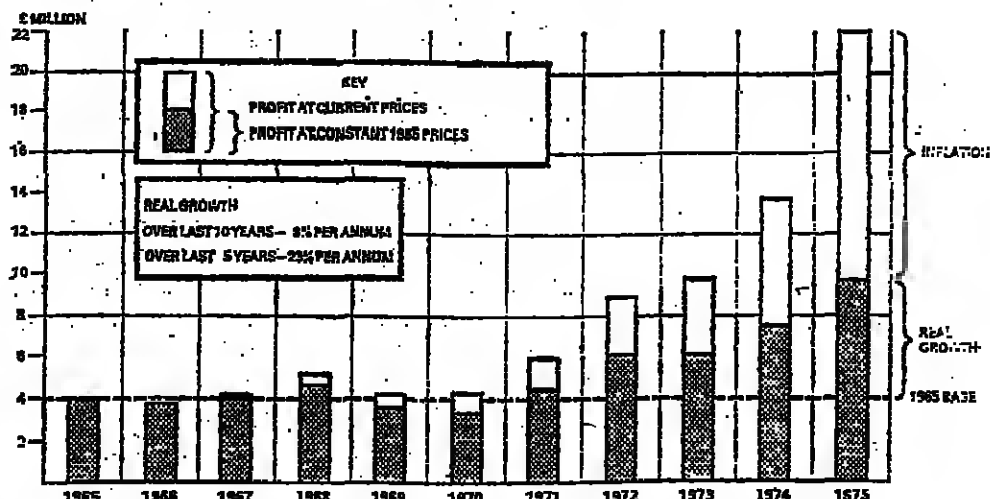
Results for the year (subject to final audit)		1975	1974	Difference	
		£m	£m	£m	%
Sales	U.K. (incl. export)	260.2	210.7	+49.5	+23.5
	Overseas	170.3	115.8	+54.5	+47.1
Total		430.5	326.5	+104.0	+31.8
Trading Profit	U.K. (incl. export)	18.4	15.4	+3.0	+19.5
	Overseas	7.2	3.9	+3.3	+84.6
Total		25.6	19.3	+6.3	+32.6
Exceptional Credits		0.4	—	+0.4	—
Interest		3.7	5.5	-1.8	-32.7
Net Profit before Tax		22.3	13.8	+8.5	+61.6

Our excellent trading performance, together with the proceeds of our Rights Issue and the sale of some of our activities in Europe to which I referred in my last report, have substantially strengthened our balance sheet and reduced our interest charges significantly.

A decade of progress

In 1965 we were a relatively small loosely-knit group of family companies. In the subsequent ten years we have become the second largest biscuit manufacturing group in the world. Our principal products are biscuits, crisps, cakes, nuts and snack products which are manufactured in the U.K., U.S.A., Japan and Europe. They are exported to 92 countries.

Growth of Pre-Tax Profits



Following a period of major investment and re-organisation from 1965-1970, real profit has more than doubled since 1970.

The Annual Report and Accounts will be posted to shareholders on 14th April 1976.

United Biscuits (Holdings) Limited

Syon Lane, Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 5NN

McVITIES • CRAWFORDS • MACFARLANE LANG • MACDONALDS • K.P. • CARRS

TSL

Manufacturers of vitreous silica and oxide ceramics

Sir JOHN PAGET, Bart., reports:

- * Record turnover and profit before tax for the year to 31 October 1975.
- * Dividend at the maximum permitted.
- * Supported by sound finances, the company is in a position to increase its market penetration in overseas territories and ensure its ability to meet the increased demands of its traditional markets, both at home and abroad, as and when the expected longer term recovery takes place.

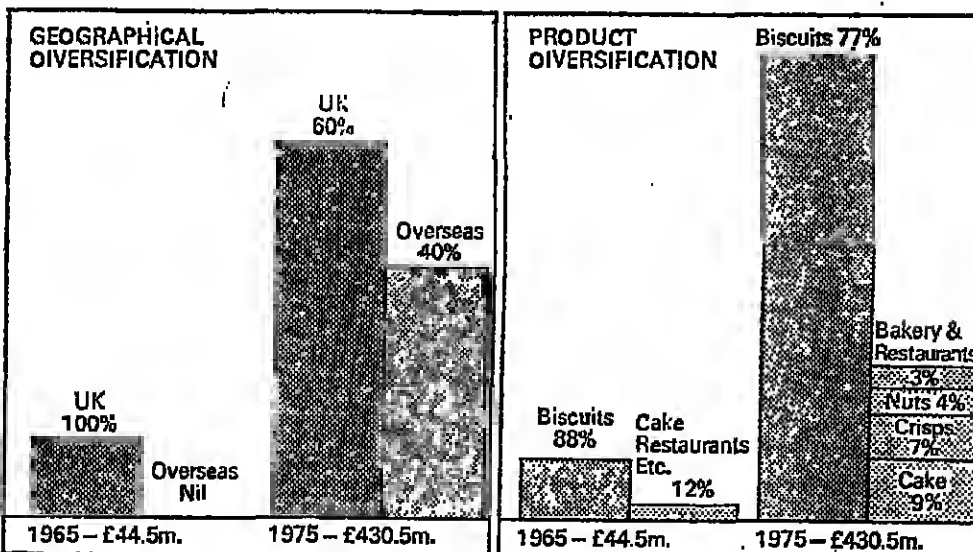
THE YEAR IN BRIEF

	1974-75 £'000	1973-74 £'000
Turnover	6,928	5,819
Profit before tax	951	901
Taxation	513	448
Earnings per 25p Ordinary Share	8.24p	8.52p
Dividend per share, net	2.513p	2.355p
Return on capital employed	19.69%	22.97%

For full copy of the Annual Report, please write to the Secretary, Thermal Syndicate Ltd., Neptune Road, Wallsend, Tyne & Wear, NE28 6DG.

Sales Growth and Diversification
by Products and Markets

In trading terms we have not only increased our sales dramatically from £44.5m in 1965 to £430.5m in 1975 but over the same period we have substantially improved the balance of our business as illustrated by the following charts.



In reaching our present position we have succeeded in achieving the essential goals we set in our strategic plan. Where we have adhered to our strategic principles, whether applied to acquisition or to quality of product or management, we have been successful. We have failed when we have ignored or compromised those principles. That is the most important lesson of these ten years.

The Importance of Good Relationships

Part of our philosophy has been to recognise that while profit is vital it is not an end in itself. In reaching our objectives I believe we have kept the respect and goodwill of consumers, our suppliers, our distributors and of our employees and pensioners.

Investment

Together with this year's Annual Report and Accounts I will be sending out a document based on a booklet entitled "Job Security" which has been used as a briefing document in all our factories and throughout the business generally during 1975. It sets out to demonstrate how, notwithstanding our increase in profits, inflation and price controls have adversely affected our ability to invest in the U.K.

Investment and return on that investment are the only sure foundation for success for a company or nation. It is vitally important that this fact should be more widely appreciated and understood. Jobs depend on investment.

Thanks to Staff

For a company to increase its profits five-fold in five years requires a very high degree of teamwork throughout the business. Management must take the right strategic decisions, control costs, monitor performance and keep the workforce informed so that their interest and co-operation are sustained, and the entire staff must be committed to the success of the enterprise.

I would like to pay tribute to everyone in the company all over the world for their contributions to this year's outstanding success. Without their dedication and hard work it could not have been done.

The Future

Our Budget for 1976 shows another increase in profits and I believe this to be realistic. We have had a very good start to the year. Past trends augur well for the future and I look forward to another ten years of continuing progress.

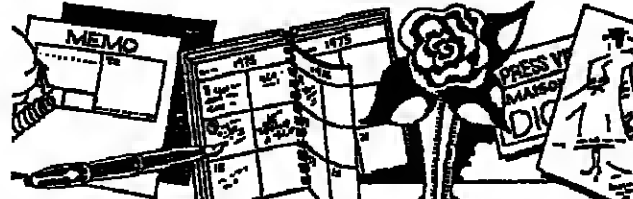
If you wish to receive a copy of the Report and Accounts, but are not a shareholder, please complete this coupon.

To the Registrars, The Royal Bank of Scotland Limited, 31 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2AB. Please send me a copy of the 1975 Annual Report and Accounts on publication.

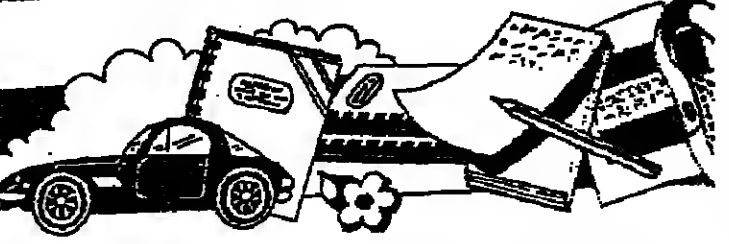
NAME

ADDRESS

UBS



La creme de la creme



WELSH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chief Executive of the Welsh Development Agency, set up to promote the regeneration of the economy in Wales, requires a highly efficient Private Secretary to help him while he sets up and then operates this new major enterprise.

First-class shorthand and typing and command of office routines are of course essential, but applicants must also have good presence and initiative, and be tactful, discreet and self-reliant. The Private Secretary will normally have regular hours but must be ready to work late when it is necessary.

The salary scale will be established within the range £2,900 to £3,700 according to the qualifications and experience of the person appointed and their ability to take on the full range of responsibility envisaged for the post. The job carries a 5 weeks' annual leave in addition to public holidays.

Application forms, to be returned by 1st April, 1976

are obtainable from:
Personnel Division, Welsh Development Agency,
Treforest Industrial Estate,
Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan CF37 5UT

Secretary for MD

c. £3,100 The Managing Director of Whitbread International is looking for an intelligent and responsible Secretary. Previous experience at a senior level is important and the person must be capable of working on their own initiative during his frequent absences. Please contact Wendy Thomas, Whitbread & Co. Ltd., 115, Victoria Road, London EC1V 4SD. Tel: 01-495 4465.

WHITBREAD

ADVERTISING IS HELL!

Even when you have smart offices in New Bond Street. Even when the people you work with are bright, bouncy and just plain nice. Even when the Agency is growing and has some big-name clients. The problem is we're understaffed and overworked. And we reckon just one good secretary with excellent secretarial skills and bags of initiative could save us. Do you exist? Will you be in time?

Find out by writing to Pam Wright at Michael Robinson & Associates, 92 New Bond Street, W1Y 9LA, giving full details of experience and personal background.

SECRETARY/P.A. TO ASSISTANT MANAGING DIRECTOR c.£3,000

required by Assistant Managing Director of major subsidiary of National Rivers group, who is responsible, inter alia, for Finance and Administration. Interesting and varied responsibilities for someone with at least 3 years' experience of working for a senior manager. Apart from the normal high-grade secretarial skills, must also possess initiative and a sound sense of humour. Offices near King's Cross and St. Pancras stations. An excellent range of fringe benefits apply. Please telephone Mrs. M. J. Harris, 01-278 2491.

Car + £3,000

If you are flexible, friendly, and have a car, we have a job for you. We are looking for a person to manage our car fleet. The job involves a lot of driving and a good knowledge of cars is essential. If you are interested, please contact us at 01-495 4465.

Pour la Femme

An Exciting Social Life
What's the best way to spend your evening? Why not at Pour la Femme? We have a wide range of drinks and snacks, and a lively atmosphere. Join us for a night of fun and excitement. Tel: 01-495 4465.

Date Line
What's the best way to spend your evening? Why not at Date Line? We have a wide range of drinks and snacks, and a lively atmosphere. Join us for a night of fun and excitement. Tel: 01-495 4465.

The Times special offer
Getting it all in the bag

What's the best way to spend your evening? Why not at The Times? We have a wide range of drinks and snacks, and a lively atmosphere. Join us for a night of fun and excitement. Tel: 01-495 4465.

International Secretaries
01-495 4465

IT'S ONLY ROCK AND ROLL
What's the best way to spend your evening? Why not at It's Only Rock and Roll? We have a wide range of drinks and snacks, and a lively atmosphere. Join us for a night of fun and excitement. Tel: 01-495 4465.

ACORN
What's the best way to spend your evening? Why not at Acorn? We have a wide range of drinks and snacks, and a lively atmosphere. Join us for a night of fun and excitement. Tel: 01-495 4465.

ADMIN. ASST./SEC.
What's the best way to spend your evening? Why not at Admin. Asst./Sec.? We have a wide range of drinks and snacks, and a lively atmosphere. Join us for a night of fun and excitement. Tel: 01-495 4465.

AUDIO SECRETARY
What's the best way to spend your evening? Why not at Audio Secretary? We have a wide range of drinks and snacks, and a lively atmosphere. Join us for a night of fun and excitement. Tel: 01-495 4465.

SEND TO: "Times Shopping Bag"
What's the best way to spend your evening? Why not at Times Shopping Bag? We have a wide range of drinks and snacks, and a lively atmosphere. Join us for a night of fun and excitement. Tel: 01-495 4465.

PLEASE SEND:
What's the best way to spend your evening? Why not at Please Send? We have a wide range of drinks and snacks, and a lively atmosphere. Join us for a night of fun and excitement. Tel: 01-495 4465.

NAME:
What's the best way to spend your evening? Why not at Name? We have a wide range of drinks and snacks, and a lively atmosphere. Join us for a night of fun and excitement. Tel: 01-495 4465.

ADDRESS:
What's the best way to spend your evening? Why not at Address? We have a wide range of drinks and snacks, and a lively atmosphere. Join us for a night of fun and excitement. Tel: 01-495 4465.

POSTCODE:
What's the best way to spend your evening? Why not at Postcode? We have a wide range of drinks and snacks, and a lively atmosphere. Join us for a night of fun and excitement. Tel: 01-495 4465.

Copywriter/Production Asst.

American Travel Brochures

Opportunity to join small, highly professional, creative team, producing some of the best travel literature in the business, mainly for the U.S. market. Advertising and European travel background helpful. Knowledge of the American market and "American language" essential. The job involves copy, research and a helping hand with the production flow. Unique atmosphere in superb modern office. Salary £4,000 to £5,000 depending on how good you are. Send a few things you're proud of and a letter about yourself to:

Mark Duchsling, Travellers Design, 10 Frederick Close, Stanhope Place, London, W.2

International Oil Company

SECRETARY

Full time, SW1, c. £2,700
To fill an interesting position in our International Purchasing Department. The successful candidate will be responsible for typing and ability to work on own initiative. Salary c. £2,700 per annum, 2 weeks holiday and contributory pension scheme.
Please telephone or write with brief details to:
Miss L. Perkins, AMOCO EUROPE INC., 33 Casendish Square, London W1M 9BF.

INTERNATIONAL MERCHANT BANK

A well-known International Merchant Bank situated close to the Bank of England wishes to appoint a
Secretary for two Young Executives
Applicants should have a French and/or Spanish shorthand capability and a knowledge of other Latin languages would be an advantage.
Excellent working conditions in young and energetic atmosphere. Generous fringe benefits. A competitive salary would be negotiated at around £3,000.
Please telephone Mrs. Wenhams 01-600 4595 Extension 253

GOOD KNOWLEDGE OF GERMAN ESSENTIAL

for P.A. based 20 to 30 to M.D. of young team of Packaging Consultants with bright and cheerful open-plan offices near Russell Square/Euston.
Varied, interesting work meeting clients: SOME TRAVEL TO GERMANY. SALARY £2,900 and subsidised lunches (plus lots of healthy salads!).
TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT US PLEASE RING SANDRA KEAN, 01-837 5207.

SECRETARY

We are an Investment Bank in the City

and are looking for a Secretary to work for an Executive Director and a Corporate Finance Executive. Aged over 23, you must have good shorthand and typing speeds, be able to cope under pressure, and have a good telephone manner. In return for these qualifications, we offer a good salary and excellent fringe benefits.
Please contact Miss Hopkins on 283 4200

MJ PERSONNEL

A Bit of Flair...
A career opportunity for a person with flair and initiative. The successful candidate will be responsible for a wide range of duties, including typing, shorthand, and general office work. Salary is negotiable.
For further details of this and other interesting vacancies, please contact:
ANNE SUTHERLAND, MARCY HURST CENTRE, 47 DORSET STREET, W.1.
TELEPHONE 01-495 4465

MOVE UP THE EXECUTIVE LADDER TO £3,500

Chairman of major stores. Group needs an experienced senior Secretary for interesting post with plenty of executive level responsibilities. Involves working closely with him and one other.
Ring: Mrs. Salam, CHALLONERS, 45 London Wall, E.C.2. 01-638 9231

National Institute for Social Work

SENIOR SECRETARY
Required for the Institute's Head Office. The successful candidate will be responsible for a wide range of duties, including typing, shorthand, and general office work. Salary is negotiable.
For further details of this and other interesting vacancies, please contact:
Mrs. Warren, 01-377 5891

PA/SECRETARY to M.D.

substantive job and creative a dynamic M.D. to work in the financial department of a well-known company. The successful candidate will be responsible for a wide range of duties, including typing, shorthand, and general office work. Salary is negotiable.
For further details of this and other interesting vacancies, please contact:
Mrs. Warren, 01-377 5891

EXPERIENCED BILINGUAL SECRETARY

with fluent French/English multi-lingual required to work in international firm. The successful candidate will be responsible for a wide range of duties, including typing, shorthand, and general office work. Salary is negotiable.
For further details of this and other interesting vacancies, please contact:
Mrs. Warren, 01-377 5891

SECRETARY

£2,700-£3,100

to assist our Superintendent Engineer who has a staff of 70 and to assume responsibility for the day to day running of our Maintenance Department Office.
Age 30+, with shorthand. Elementary book-keeping useful. L.V's. Four weeks' holiday. Pension scheme.
Telephone Miss S. M. Hurley
IMPERIAL CANCER RESEARCH FUND
Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.2
on 247 0200 ext. 305

SECRETARY TO MANAGING DIRECTOR

Hounslow Salary negotiable
Soleus Schell is a substantial and fast growing service company in the construction and building industry.
The successful applicant will be involved in a dynamic situation dealing with our clients and managers throughout the U.K. and the many overseas territories where we operate.
A good shorthand speed is essential, together with the ability and initiative to deal with correspondence in the absence of the Managing Director.
The position offers a good salary, opportunity to develop, and a chance to work for a company with a strong reputation in the industry.
Please apply with brief details of your experience to Gary Ross, Personnel Manager, Soleus Schell, Annabelle House, 28 St. James Road, Hounslow, Middlesex, or telephone 01-837 5207, ext. 22.

A... with a sense of humour

and style will be more than addressing to an international and active secretarial position. A good sense of humour is essential. Really high grade secretarial skills to standard level, as well as a good knowledge of shorthand and typing. The successful candidate will be responsible for a wide range of duties, including typing, shorthand, and general office work. Salary is negotiable.
For further details of this and other interesting vacancies, please contact:
Sandra Avey, 01-589 5551

NEW OFFICES IN N.W.5

£3,000 plus 20% staff discount
PERSONAL ASSISTANT, 20-30 years, for Marketing Director of Retail Chemist Group. The right person will be intelligent, efficient, and enthusiastic and with secretarial skills.
PHONE MISS CAIN, 01-589 5551

MAYFAIR PA/SECRETARY

Preferred for a person with experience in the City. The successful candidate will be responsible for a wide range of duties, including typing, shorthand, and general office work. Salary is negotiable.
For further details of this and other interesting vacancies, please contact:
Mrs. Warren, 01-377 5891

CLIENT SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

A career opportunity for a person with flair and initiative. The successful candidate will be responsible for a wide range of duties, including typing, shorthand, and general office work. Salary is negotiable.
For further details of this and other interesting vacancies, please contact:
Mrs. Warren, 01-377 5891

PUBLISHING

Secretary/Assistant to Production Manager working on Children's books. The successful candidate will be responsible for a wide range of duties, including typing, shorthand, and general office work. Salary is negotiable.
For further details of this and other interesting vacancies, please contact:
Mrs. Warren, 01-377 5891

ANDALUCIA!

EUROPEAN DIRECTOR of well-known travel agency. The successful candidate will be responsible for a wide range of duties, including typing, shorthand, and general office work. Salary is negotiable.
For further details of this and other interesting vacancies, please contact:
Mrs. Warren, 01-377 5891

VERY EXPERIENCED SECRETARY

for busy 4-person editorial department. The successful candidate will be responsible for a wide range of duties, including typing, shorthand, and general office work. Salary is negotiable.
For further details of this and other interesting vacancies, please contact:
Mrs. Warren, 01-377 5891

BI-LINGUAL SECRETARY

to work for charming young firm. The successful candidate will be responsible for a wide range of duties, including typing, shorthand, and general office work. Salary is negotiable.
For further details of this and other interesting vacancies, please contact:
Mrs. Warren, 01-377 5891

SECRETARY/P.A. TO CHAIRMAN OF U.K. USA GROUP

Job also involves handling a large amount of correspondence. The successful candidate will be responsible for a wide range of duties, including typing, shorthand, and general office work. Salary is negotiable.
For further details of this and other interesting vacancies, please contact:
Mrs. Warren, 01-377 5891

ASSISTANT PRESS OFF

We have a new position in our Publicity Department for an Assistant Press Officer. The successful candidate will be responsible for a wide range of duties, including typing, shorthand, and general office work. Salary is negotiable.
For further details of this and other interesting vacancies, please contact:
Mrs. Warren, 01-377 5891

Meat and Livestock Commission Secretary/Personal Assistant

To work for Director of Meat Promotion. The successful candidate will be responsible for a wide range of duties, including typing, shorthand, and general office work. Salary is negotiable.
For further details of this and other interesting vacancies, please contact:
Mrs. Warren, 01-377 5891

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO THE FINANCIAL VICE PRESIDENT TREASURER

International Finance Corporation. The successful candidate will be responsible for a wide range of duties, including typing, shorthand, and general office work. Salary is negotiable.
For further details of this and other interesting vacancies, please contact:
Mrs. Warren, 01-377 5891

Administrative Assist

for a person with experience in the City. The successful candidate will be responsible for a wide range of duties, including typing, shorthand, and general office work. Salary is negotiable.
For further details of this and other interesting vacancies, please contact:
Mrs. Warren, 01-377 5891

SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATIVE £3,000 NEG.

The London-based Personnel office of a major international company is looking for a Secretary/Administrative. The successful candidate will be responsible for a wide range of duties, including typing, shorthand, and general office work. Salary is negotiable.
For further details of this and other interesting vacancies, please contact:
Mrs. Warren, 01-377 5891

BOOKKEEPER ACCOUNTANT

required for BROWN'S FASHION STORE, W.1. Fully experienced person up to P.A. level. For many accounts departments. Excellent salary, discount, modern office. Telephone 491 7833

SECRETARY

for a person with experience in the City. The successful candidate will be responsible for a wide range of duties, including typing, shorthand, and general office work. Salary is negotiable.
For further details of this and other interesting vacancies, please contact:
Mrs. Warren, 01-377 5891

Secretarial and Non-secretarial Appointments also on page 12

NON-SECRETARIAL

PART TIME NEGOTIATOR for a person with experience in the City. The successful candidate will be responsible for a wide range of duties, including typing, shorthand, and general office work. Salary is negotiable.
For further details of this and other interesting vacancies, please contact:
Mrs. Warren, 01-377 5891

MAKE MORE OF YOUR LIFE IN A NEW MANAGERIAL POST AT CHALLONERS

If you're a well-organised person, good at inspiring others in spirit and want new business opportunities in the City, then this is a great opportunity for you. The successful candidate will be responsible for a wide range of duties, including typing, shorthand, and general office work. Salary is negotiable.
For further details of this and other interesting vacancies, please contact:
Mrs. Warren, 01-377 5891

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STARRIAL

REQUIREMENT

OPERATOR

ASSISTANT

ASSISTANT

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SECRETARY

SECRETARY

The manager of our Procurement Department is currently seeking a Confidential Secretary to assist him with the administration of this busy commercial area of the Company.

You should possess sound secretarial skills and the ability to perform a supervisory role within the dept. In return, we offer job interest and the opportunity to use your own initiative.

The salary will be attractive and other benefits will include an electric typewriter, LVs, a Season Ticket Purchase Scheme and four weeks' holiday. Nearest underground stations are Mornington Crescent and Euston.

For further details, contact Miss Rosemary Tinkler on 01-388 1212 ext 262 or write to her at Foster Wheeler Power Products Ltd., Greater London House, Hampstead Road, London NW1 7QN.

SECRETARY

to help us develop our world-wide business

Bechtel's business is developing fast—world-wide. For we're international specialists in the design and construction of engineering plants for the oil and process industries and our Business Development Executives are heavily engaged in preparing proposals for new business. That means that they sometimes have to travel overseas and while they're away they need an experienced, capable and self-reliant Secretary to look after the shop. To deal with queries; to keep the office ticking over smoothly until they return; and then help them prepare their reports and proposals. It's an interesting job calling for initiative, quick thinking, a pleasant and attractive personality and, above all, a high standard of secretarial skills.

In return for all this we'll give you a high salary, a stimulating environment and really decent benefits like 30p LVs, paid overtime with 75p meals allowance, three weeks' holiday, season ticket loans, an IBM electric typewriter and a pleasant office conveniently situated near Hammermith tube station.

IF YOUR EXPERIENCE IS READY FOR DEVELOPMENT, PLEASE TELEPHONE MAUREN PEACHEY ON 741 5504.

POSTGRADUATE SECRETARY

An experienced Secretary is wanted to assist the General Manager in the oil and process industries. The post involves a high level of responsibility and the successful candidate will be expected to manage a team of secretaries.

Salary on scale starting from £2,500 p.a. plus benefits. Applications to: 130033. Applications to: 130033.

SECRETARY/PA

For a well established PA/Sec. (1914b). Working for an Account Executive who deals with some of the world's best known Brand Leaders. An ideal opportunity for a girl with a genuine interest in the Advertising world who can deal confidently with clients at Top Management level. Sal. to £2,400. Call Brenda Terry.

ADVERTISING PA/SEC.

Lots of involvement here for a well educated PA/Sec. (1914b). Working for an Account Executive who deals with some of the world's best known Brand Leaders. An ideal opportunity for a girl with a genuine interest in the Advertising world who can deal confidently with clients at Top Management level. Sal. to £2,400. Call Brenda Terry.

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SHELTER

National Campaign for the Homeless

TWO DEPUTY DIRECTORS OF THE HAMPDEN HOUSING CHARITY

The Deputy Director responsible for Fund Raising and Administration is looking for someone who will enjoy working with a wide range of people, both in the public and private sectors, and who will be able to handle a wide range of administrative tasks.

The Deputy Director responsible for Housing Policy needs someone who will be able to handle a wide range of administrative tasks, both in the public and private sectors, and who will be able to handle a wide range of administrative tasks.

Both jobs offer excellent potential for using initiative and taking responsibility. The jobs offer a minimum salary of £22,500 p.a. generous holidays and L.V.s.

For further particulars and application forms please contact: IMELDA FINNEY, Shelter, 86 Strand, London WC2R 0EQ or phone 01-336 2051.

Advertising is hell!

Even when you have smart offices in New Bond Street. Even when the people you work with are bright, bouncy and just plain nice. Even when the Agency is growing and has some big name clients. The problem is never understaffed and overworked. And we reckon just one good secretary with excellent secretarial skills and bags of initiative could save us.

Do you exist? Will you be in time? Find out by writing to Pam Wright at Michael Robinson & Associates, 92 New Bond Street, W1Y 5LA, giving full details of experience and personal background.

OUT AND ABOUT £3,500 + perks

The Managing Director of a large W.C. Engineering works needs a PA/Secretary to assist in the smooth running of the company. The successful candidate will be expected to manage a team of secretaries.

Salary on scale starting from £2,500 p.a. plus benefits. Applications to: 130033. Applications to: 130033.

2 BILINGUAL SPANISH SECRETARIES

A family owned company and a small business need a Secretary to assist in the smooth running of the company. The successful candidate will be expected to manage a team of secretaries.

Salary on scale starting from £2,500 p.a. plus benefits. Applications to: 130033. Applications to: 130033.

SECRETARY/PA

For a well established PA/Sec. (1914b). Working for an Account Executive who deals with some of the world's best known Brand Leaders. An ideal opportunity for a girl with a genuine interest in the Advertising world who can deal confidently with clients at Top Management level. Sal. to £2,400. Call Brenda Terry.

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ADVERTISING PA/SEC.

SITUATIONS WANTED

FLAT SHARING

EX-PARATROOPER, 25, seeks job as housekeeper of P.A. Box 222, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378

DEATHS

OXON—On 7th March, 1976, Mrs. Mary Ann Oxon, 65, of 10, Weymouth Road, Weymouth, Dorset, died after a long illness. Burial at Weymouth Cemetery on 12th March. Family flowers by arrangement.

BROOKS, ELLEN NOVA MARY—On 7th March, 1976, Mrs. Ellen Brooks, 65, of 10, Weymouth Road, Weymouth, Dorset, died after a long illness. Burial at Weymouth Cemetery on 12th March. Family flowers by arrangement.

BURTON—On 7th March, 1976, Mrs. Burton, 65, of 10, Weymouth Road, Weymouth, Dorset, died after a long illness. Burial at Weymouth Cemetery on 12th March. Family flowers by arrangement.

DEATHS

MORTON—On 8th March, 1976, Mrs. Morton, 65, of 10, Weymouth Road, Weymouth, Dorset, died after a long illness. Burial at Weymouth Cemetery on 12th March. Family flowers by arrangement.

ROSE—On 8th March, 1976, Mrs. Rose, 65, of 10, Weymouth Road, Weymouth, Dorset, died after a long illness. Burial at Weymouth Cemetery on 12th March. Family flowers by arrangement.

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URGENT

Are there any kind friends willing to make short-term, interest-free loans to the Marie Curie Foundation to help finance the completion of two half-finished homes for 100 terminal cancer sufferers? Min. £5-Max. £1m. Guaranteed repayment at 6, 12 or 24 months or at 7 days' notice. Details from the Secretary, 124 Sloane Street, S.W.1. (01-730 9151).

IN DEED IT IS

A WILL IS YOUR last chance

Save the Children

Save the Children is fighting a desperate, world-wide battle against hunger, poverty and disease. For thousands of children and their mothers all over the world, we are their only hope. You can help us by writing to Save the Children. We will be able to help you in many ways. We will be able to help you in many ways. We will be able to help you in many ways.

SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND

157 Clapham Road, London, SW9 0PT.

WITHOUT YOUR HELP B.H.F.

Cannot continue to finance vital work. Please send a donation. Remember us in your will.

BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION

27a Clarendon Place, London, W1H 0DH.

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE GASLIGHT

4 Duke of York Street, at St. James, S.W.1.

WINE AND DINE

Take a duck, a duck, a duck. In the heart of London, a duck is a duck. In the heart of London, a duck is a duck. In the heart of London, a duck is a duck.

WINDSKATE

Exciting new mini, land yacht as featured in Tomorrow's World. Its on foot track. Try one. Buy one. Telephone 775 5001 at King's Clarendon, Bristol. 02721 57873.

YACHTS AND BOATS

457, VAWC, cruising... (text continues)

SPORT AND RECREATION

BOAT RACE PARTY

Boat race party, 100th Anniversary of the Boat Race, 1976. Boat race party, 100th Anniversary of the Boat Race, 1976. Boat race party, 100th Anniversary of the Boat Race, 1976.

UK HOLIDAYS

SUSSEX

Charming, quiet, South Downs, 15 miles from Brighton. Charming, quiet, South Downs, 15 miles from Brighton. Charming, quiet, South Downs, 15 miles from Brighton.

IDEAL ISLINGTON

ISLINGTON—Brilliant, beautiful, for the young, for the young, for the young. ISLINGTON—Brilliant, beautiful, for the young, for the young, for the young.

Jamaica

the alternative

01-837 3311

responses he was looking for. If you have a flat or house you want

PERSONAL COLUMNS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

GREEK ISLANDS SPECIAL OFFER

ANDORRA SKI REPORT

ANDORRA SKI REPORT

1st WK. 200-250 W. 2nd WK. 250-300 W. 3rd WK. 300-350 W. 4th WK. 350-400 W. 5th WK. 400-450 W. 6th WK. 450-500 W. 7th WK. 500-550 W. 8th WK. 550-600 W. 9th WK. 600-650 W. 10th WK. 650-700 W. 11th WK. 700-750 W. 12th WK. 750-800 W. 13th WK. 800-850 W. 14th WK. 850-900 W. 15th WK. 900-950 W. 16th WK. 950-1000 W. 17th WK. 1000-1050 W. 18th WK. 1050-1100 W. 19th WK. 1100-1150 W. 20th WK. 1150-1200 W. 21st WK. 1200-1250 W. 22nd WK. 1250-1300 W. 23rd WK. 1300-1350 W. 24th WK. 1350-1400 W. 25th WK. 1400-1450 W. 26th WK. 1450-1500 W. 27th WK. 1500-1550 W. 28th WK. 1550-1600 W. 29th WK. 1600-1650 W. 30th WK. 1650-1700 W. 31st WK. 1700-1750 W. 32nd WK. 1750-1800 W. 33rd WK. 1800-1850 W. 34th WK. 1850-1900 W. 35th WK. 1900-1950 W. 36th WK. 1950-2000 W. 37th WK. 2000-2050 W. 38th WK. 2050-2100 W. 39th WK. 2100-2150 W. 40th WK. 2150-2200 W. 41st WK. 2200-2250 W. 42nd WK. 2250-2300 W. 43rd WK. 2300-2350 W. 44th WK. 2350-2400 W. 45th WK. 2400-2450 W. 46th WK. 2450-2500 W. 47th WK. 2500-2550 W. 48th WK. 2550-2600 W. 49th WK. 2600-2650 W. 50th WK. 2650-2700 W. 51st WK. 2700-2750 W. 52nd WK. 2750-2800 W. 53rd WK. 2800-2850 W. 54th WK. 2850-2900 W. 55th WK. 2900-2950 W. 56th WK. 2950-3000 W. 57th WK. 3000-3050 W. 58th WK. 3050-3100 W. 59th WK. 3100-3150 W. 60th WK. 3150-3200 W. 61st WK. 3200-3250 W. 62nd WK. 3250-3300 W. 63rd WK. 3300-3350 W. 64th WK. 3350-3400 W. 65th WK. 3400-3450 W. 66th WK. 3450-3500 W. 67th WK. 3500-3550 W. 68th WK. 3550-3600 W. 69th WK. 3600-3650 W. 70th WK. 3650-3700 W. 71st WK. 3700-3750 W. 72nd WK. 3750-3800 W. 73rd WK. 3800-3850 W. 74th WK. 3850-3900 W. 75th WK. 3900-3950 W. 76th WK. 3950-4000 W. 77th WK. 4000-4050 W. 78th WK. 4050-4100 W. 79th WK. 4100-4150 W. 80th WK. 4150-4200 W. 81st WK. 4200-4250 W. 82nd WK. 4250-4300 W. 83rd WK. 4300-4350 W. 84th WK. 4350-4400 W. 85th WK. 4400-4450 W. 86th WK. 4450-4500 W. 87th WK. 4500-4550 W. 88th WK. 4550-4600 W. 89th WK. 4600-4650 W. 90th WK. 4650-4700 W. 91st WK. 4700-4750 W. 92nd WK. 4750-4800 W. 93rd WK. 4800-4850 W. 94th WK. 4850-4900 W. 95th WK. 4900-4950 W. 96th WK. 4950-5000 W. 97th WK. 5000-5050 W. 98th WK. 5050-5100 W. 99th WK. 5100-5150 W. 100th WK. 5150-5200 W. 101st WK. 5200-5250 W. 102nd WK. 5250-5300 W. 103rd WK. 5300-5350 W. 104th WK. 5350-5400 W. 105th WK. 5400-5450 W. 106th WK. 5450-5500 W. 107th WK. 5500-5550 W. 108th WK. 5550-5600 W. 109th WK. 5600-5650 W. 110th WK. 5650-5700 W. 111th WK. 5700-5750 W. 112th WK. 5750-5800 W. 113th WK. 5800-5850 W. 114th WK. 5850-5900 W. 115th WK. 5900-5950 W. 116th WK. 5950-6000 W. 117th WK. 6000-6050 W. 118th WK. 6050-6100 W. 119th WK. 6100-6150 W. 120th WK. 6150-6200 W. 121st WK. 6200-6250 W. 122nd WK. 6250-6300 W. 123rd WK. 6300-6350 W. 124th WK. 6350-6400 W. 125th WK. 6400-6450 W. 126th WK. 6450-6500 W. 127th WK. 6500-6550 W. 128th WK. 6550-6600 W. 129th WK. 6600-6650 W. 130th WK. 6650-6700 W. 131st WK. 6700-6750 W. 132nd WK. 6750-6800 W. 133rd WK. 6800-6850 W. 134th WK. 6850-6900 W. 135th WK. 6900-6950 W. 136th WK. 6950-7000 W. 137th WK. 7000-7050 W. 138th WK. 7050-7100 W. 139th WK. 7100-7150 W. 140th WK. 7150-7200 W. 141st WK. 7200-7250 W. 142nd WK. 7250-7300 W. 143rd WK. 7300-7350 W. 144th WK. 7350-7400 W. 145th WK. 7400-7450 W. 146th WK. 7450-7500 W. 147th WK. 7500-7550 W. 148th WK. 7550-7600 W. 149th WK. 7600-7650 W. 150th WK. 7650-7700 W. 151st WK. 7700-7750 W. 152nd WK. 7750-7800 W. 153rd WK. 7800-7850 W. 154th WK. 7850-7900 W. 155th WK. 7900-7950 W. 156th WK. 7950-8000 W. 157th WK. 8000-8050 W. 158th WK. 8050-8100 W. 159th WK. 8100-8150 W. 160th WK. 8150-8200 W. 161st WK. 8200-8250 W. 162nd WK. 8250-8300 W. 163rd WK. 8300-8350 W. 164th WK. 8350-8400 W. 165th WK. 8400-8450 W. 166th WK. 8450-8500 W. 167th WK. 8500-8550 W. 168th WK. 8550-8600 W. 169th WK. 8600-8650 W. 170th WK. 8650-8700 W. 171st WK. 8700-8750 W. 172nd WK. 8750-8800 W. 173rd WK. 8800-8850 W. 174th WK. 8850-8900 W. 175th WK. 8900-8950 W. 176th WK. 8950-9000 W. 177th WK. 9000-9050 W. 178th WK. 9050-9100 W. 179th WK. 9100-9150 W. 180th WK. 9150-9200 W. 181st WK. 9200-9250 W. 182nd WK. 9250-9300 W. 183rd WK. 9300-9350 W. 184th WK. 9350-9400 W. 185th WK. 9400-9450 W. 186th WK. 9450-9500 W. 187th WK. 9500-9550 W. 188th WK. 9550-9600 W. 189th WK. 9600-9650 W. 190th WK. 9650-9700 W. 191st WK. 9700-9750 W. 192nd WK. 9750-9800 W. 193rd WK. 9800-9850 W. 194th WK. 9850-9900 W. 195th WK. 9900-9950 W. 196th WK. 9950-10000 W. 197th WK. 10000-10050 W. 198th WK. 10050-10100 W. 199th WK. 10100-10150 W. 200th WK. 10150-10200 W. 201st WK. 10200-10250 W. 202nd WK. 10250-10300 W. 203rd WK. 10300-10350 W. 204th WK. 10350-10400 W. 205th WK. 10400-10450 W. 206th WK. 10450-10500 W. 207th WK. 10500-10550 W. 208th WK. 10550-10600 W. 209th WK. 10600-10650 W. 210th WK. 10650-10700 W. 211st WK. 10700-10750 W. 212nd WK. 10750-10800 W. 213th WK. 10800-10850 W. 214th WK. 10850-10900 W. 215th WK. 10900-10950 W. 216th WK. 10950-11000 W. 217th WK. 11000-11050 W. 218th WK. 11050-11100 W. 219th WK. 11100-11150 W. 220th WK. 11150-11200 W. 221st WK. 11200-11250 W. 222nd WK. 11250-11300 W. 223rd WK. 11300-11350 W. 224th WK. 11350-11400 W. 225th WK. 11400-11450 W. 226th WK. 11450-11500 W. 227th WK. 11500-11550 W. 228th WK. 11550-11600 W. 229th WK. 11600-11650 W. 230th WK. 11650-11700 W. 231st WK. 11700-11750 W. 232nd WK. 11750-11800 W. 233rd WK. 11800-11850 W. 234th WK. 11850-11900 W. 235th WK. 11900-11950 W. 236th WK. 11950-12000 W. 237th WK. 12000-12050 W. 238th WK. 12050-12100 W. 239th WK. 12100-12150 W. 240th WK. 12150-12200 W. 241st WK. 12200-12250 W. 242nd WK. 12250-12300 W. 243rd WK. 12300-12350 W. 244th WK. 12350-12400 W. 245th WK. 12400-12450 W. 246th WK. 12450-12500 W. 247th WK. 12500-12550 W. 248th WK. 12550-12600 W. 249th WK. 12600-12650 W. 250th WK. 12650-12700 W. 251st WK. 12700-12750 W. 252nd WK. 12750-12800 W. 253rd WK. 12800-12850 W. 254th WK. 12850-12900 W. 255th WK. 12900-12950 W. 256th WK. 12950-13000 W. 257th WK. 13000-13050 W. 258th WK. 13050-13100 W. 259th WK. 13100-13150 W. 260th WK. 13150-13200 W. 261st WK. 13200-13250 W. 262nd WK. 13250-13300 W. 263rd WK. 13300-13350 W. 264th WK. 13350-13400 W. 265th WK. 13400-13450 W. 266th WK. 13450-13500 W. 267th WK. 13500-13550 W. 268th WK. 13550-13600 W. 269th WK. 13600-13650 W. 270th WK. 13650-13700 W. 271st WK. 13700-13750 W. 272nd WK. 13750-13800 W. 273rd WK. 13800-13850 W. 274th WK. 13850-13900 W. 275th WK. 13900-13950 W. 276th WK. 13950-14000 W. 277th WK. 14000-14050 W. 278th WK. 14050-14100 W. 279th WK. 14100-14150 W. 280th WK. 14150-14200 W. 281st WK. 14200-14250 W. 282nd WK. 14250-14300 W. 283rd WK. 14300-14350 W. 284th WK. 14350-14400 W. 285th WK. 14400-14450 W. 286th WK. 14450-14500 W. 287th WK. 14500-14550 W. 288th WK. 14550-14600 W. 289th WK. 14600-14650 W. 290th WK. 14650-14700 W. 291st WK. 14700-14750 W. 292nd WK. 14750-14800 W. 293rd WK. 14800-14850 W. 294th WK. 14850-14900 W. 295th WK. 14900-14950 W. 296th WK. 14950-15000 W. 297th WK. 15000-15050 W. 298th WK. 15050-15100 W. 299th WK. 15100-15150 W. 300th WK. 15150-15200 W.